

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

How are you doing on your New Year's resolutions so far?

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INSIDE

NATION



President Obama is sworn in for four more years in a simple ceremony.

► **PAGE 15**

FOCUS



Sex has proved to be the downfall of many public notables.

► **PAGE 17**

LIFE & STYLE



Getting a family organized requires more than a few resolutions.

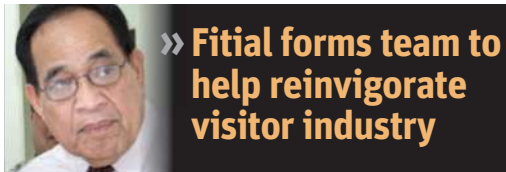
► **PAGE 19**

Corporation eyes transfer of Rota doctor to Tinian. **PAGE 2**
Fund's Razzano also moves to disqualify Inos. **PAGE 3**

Back to basics on NMI tourism

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Cabinet secretaries and directors spent some three-and-a-half hours of their Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday yesterday getting tourism stakeholder feedback from Tan Holdings Corp. vice chair Willie Tan, most of which has to do with the need for the government to do more to help reinvigorate the visitor industry including the most basic things such as cleaning up and maintaining beaches, historic sites and other tourism spots at a time when tourism is picking up.



» **Fitial forms team to help reinvigorate visitor industry**

See **TOURISM** on **Page 4**

Fitch issues positive credit rating for CPA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fitch Ratings affirmed Monday the "B-" rating of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's \$14 million airport revenue bonds issued in 1998 and revised the bond rating outlook from

"stable" to "positive."

The series 1998A bonds are secured by a pledge of gross airport revenues generated by the operations of the airport.

Fitch Ratings is a global rating agency. According to the latest rating, the

See **FITCH** on **Page 4**

CUC, CHC emergencies continue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew on Friday his separate declarations of a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth

Healthcare Corp.

The new round of CHC emergency enters its 10th month, while the new round of CUC emergency enters its eighth month.

The declarations mean the continued

See **CUC** on **Page 4**

Arctic Circle launches passenger flights

» **Company assures cargo services will continue**



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

ROTA—Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. assured the CNMI of its uninterrupted cargo services as the company's inaugural passenger flight from Saipan to Rota touched down yesterday at the Benjamin

Taisacan Manglona International Airport amid strong winds.

Underscoring passenger safety, the company's operations team gave the go-signal to proceed with the 30-minute flight chartered by Rota Resort & Country Club.

The maiden flight departed the Saipan

See **FLIGHTS** on **Page 4**

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Commuters prepare to board the inaugural passenger flight of Arctic Circle Air to Rota amid overcast skies Monday morning. The company officially launched its on-demand Rota flights from Saipan, which are chartered by JMSH, LLC-owned Rota Resort & Country Club.



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Local



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Beijing Travel Trade Seminar

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)

conducted the Beijing Travel Trade Seminar for 60 Beijing travel trade partners on Dec. 11, 2012. The seminar aimed to give participants a panoramic view of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; to introduce the MVA to new travel trade partners; to reaffirm relationships with existing partners; and to promote direct flights operating between Beijing and Saipan.



The presentation included a scenic film highlighting the natural beauty of the islands, a detailed

description of hotels, and information on golf resources and wedding and honeymoon tour packages. The event was also attended by representatives of seven major media outlets in Beijing, **Century Tours Shanghai**, and **Tinian Dynasty Beijing**.

China is the Northern Marianas' fastest growing tourism market at this time. Last fiscal year, the Northern Marianas received 78,928 visitors from China, representing about 20 percent of total visitors arrivals. So far this fiscal year, 15,100 Chinese visitors have arrived, a 36 percent increase over the same period last fiscal year.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Corporation eyes transfer of Rota doctor to Tinian

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

In view of the critical need to cover healthcare services at the Tinian Health Center, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. wants to transfer one of its two physicians on Rota to Tinian.

CEO Juan N. Babauta disclosed that Dr. Sharlene Osman, director for Medical Affairs, would soon announce a decision on who will be stationed at the Tinian Health Center.

The choice is between Dr.

Francois Claassens and Dr. James Toskas, the two physicians stationed at the Rota Health Center for many years now.

Babauta said the recent passing of Dr. Frank Pair resulted in the position on Tinian becoming vacant again. To cover for the affected services, Dr. Daniel Lamar temporarily works at the center from Monday to Friday. The health center has no weekend coverage.

Pair was found dead in his apartment on Tinian early this

month. Babauta declined to comment about the incident but said his remains have been flown to the late doctor's family in Alabama.

The Tinian Health Center has been operating without a full-time doctor since Dr. Steven Lebamoff's resignation last year. Pair was recruited in October last year through an agency and was hired by the corporation under an independent contract.

Prior to Pair, Dr. Priyawathan Wijay was the center's full-time doctor under a special contract

that required him to work only from Friday to Tuesday each week.

The Tinian Health Center has about 30 personnel including its resident director. These employees include nine nurses, a laboratory technician, an x-ray technician, two pharmacists, two staff for environmental health, one staff for the medical supply office, two for housekeeping, two trade maintenance workers, and three at its accounting unit. It provides both inpatient and emergency care.

IN REVIEWING REFUND APPLICATIONS

Fund admin told to work with Larson

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has ordered NMI Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan to work with Finance Secretary Larissa Larson in reviewing thousands of applications filed by Fund members who want to withdraw their employee contributions.

In a written order issued Friday, Tydingco-Gatewood further directed Pangelinan and her staff to continue processing the applications received.

At last week's hearing, Pangelinan disclosed that the Fund was still working on processing the thousands of applications received. She said the process is slow and tedious because the Fund must manually calculate each employee's contributions.

Because the Fund is not certain that the data it possesses is accurate and reliable, Pangelinan said the staff must verify the Fund's information with other sources to ensure that mistakes are not made.

Larson offered the assistance of her department to help the Fund in this verification process.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the court empathizes with the uncertainty and anxiety facing many of the current active employees but she is confident that the effects of Public Law 17-82 will be fully addressed and resolved in the settlement process.

Public Law 17-82, enacted on Sept. 11, 2012, allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

After issuing 93 refund checks to members who elected to terminate their membership in the program, the Fund suspended

the disbursement, citing the delinquent contributions of both the employee and employer contributions of the government and its autonomous agencies.

Following the last week's hearing, Tydingco-Gatewood said she spoke with chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, who agreed to preside over a settlement conference in connection with the class action lawsuit filed by retiree Betty Johnson.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she forwarded copies of the pleadings to Faris, and that he is currently reviewing the documents. Faris will shortly advise the parties about his settlement procedures for this case.

"In light of the anticipated set-

See FUND on Page 4

Fitial OKs \$168K for Saipan projects

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed "with reservation" yesterday a local measure appropriating and re-appropriating a total of \$168,872.71—mostly from developer's infrastructure tax funds—for different projects on Saipan such as public school sewer and water systems, animal shelter sewer disposal system, a crosswalk and basketball courts. One of the local bill's co-authors said the local delegation will address the governor's concerns.

The governor said the Department of Finance secretary has "certified that funds are available for this specific appropriation; however, action on this local law will not be implemented until the Saipan and Northern Islands [Legislative] Delegation pass appropriation legislation to fulfill their obligations they had previously committed to pay for travel of the Saipan Little League and the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band."

House Local Bill 17-82, Draft 2 is now Saipan Local Law 17-18. Its co-authors are former speaker Eli Cabrera and former representative and now Sen. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Yumul said yesterday he thanks the governor for signing the bill because the Public

See FITAL on Page 4

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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

Fund's Razzano also moves to disqualify Inos from suit

» Judge Inos wife is a retiree receiving Fund benefits

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Following Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo's recusal, Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos has been assigned to preside over the proceedings in the NMI Retirement Fund lawsuit. Inos' wife, Debra, however, is a retiree who receives regular Fund benefits. For this reason, Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano moved Friday to disqualify Judge Inos from presiding over the lawsuit.

If the court requires an evidentiary hearing, Razzano said the Fund's administrator can testify as to the exact amount being paid to Debra Inos.

Razzano also asked the court to totally disqualify Govendo from the case through an order of total recusal and not only a partial recusal.

Razzano, through counsels Daniel J. Berman and Brad-dock J. Huesman, wants a disinterested, neutral judge or justice from Guam or any other U.S. jurisdiction to be temporarily designated to decide the merits that remain in the case and proceedings.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Gov. Be-

nigno R. Fitial and the Legislature passed into law Public Law 17-82, which allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

On Dec. 13, 2012, the Commonwealth Ports Authority sought to have Razzano be held in contempt for failing to "comply with Public Law 17-82."

Berman and Huesman said that CPA has asked the Superior Court to order Razzano and the Fund to make payments to Fund members who seek to terminate their membership in the Fund, as allowed by Public Law 17-82.

On Jan. 4, 2013, Razzano filed a motion to disqualify Govendo. According to Berman and Huesman, Govendo, the assigned judge in the Fund lawsuit, applied on Sept. 19, 2012, to withdraw his employee Fund contributions, amounting to more than \$50,000.

On Jan. 7, 2013, Govendo issued a partial order of recusal.

On Jan. 10, 2013, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja issued an assignment order and required that "all proceedings in this case related to

Public Law 17-82 be certified to judge Inos."

In the Fund's motion to disqualify Inos, Berman and Huesman said that, on Jan. 15, 2013, in a surprise notice and order, Inos set a hearing on the CPA motion on Jan. 22, 2013, at 9am. *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday that the hearing was moved to Jan. 24, at 10am before Judge Inos.

Berman and Huesman said that Inos' order has the effect—whether intended or not—of summarily denying the Fund's request for a setting of hearing date in February.

"No preliminary contacts were received from the clerk of court prior to the order setting

motion and the schedule date is a surprise to the Fund's legal counsel," the lawyers said.

The Fund's counsels said that CPA's motion puts Inos and his wife in the uncomfortable position of having a financial interest in the outcome of the proceeding and possibly benefiting financially from his own order.

Berman and Huesman said that Public Law 17-82 places the Fund in a precarious dilemma.

"It is a law of the Commonwealth, which has the potential effect of not only weakening the Fund, but of pitting Fund members against each other. Specifically, it places active retirees versus active employees," the

lawyers pointed out.

The Fund counsels said on one side are current employees who, understandably, are desperate to get out of a system they see the government abandoning by its chronic failure to pay the final judgment.

On the other side are many retirees who appear to see current employee contributions as a possible source for their own future benefits, the lawyers said.

The retirees, however, are not entitled to that money because the money that Public Law 17-82 seeks to have exit the Fund is money that cannot be used for benefit payments to current retirees.

Berman and Huesman said the Fund has no alternative but to request that Inos recuse him-

self from the case.

As for Govendo's partial recusal, the lawyers said that such an order is not recognized by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The lawyers said the statute requires the judge in question to remove himself from the entire legal action, not just a portion of it.

The Fund filed a lawsuit in Superior Court in 2006 against the government, Fitial, Department of Finance, and then Finance secretary Eloy S. Inos over the government's failure to remit required payments.

In 2009, Govendo ruled that the government owes the Fund \$282 million in damages and that the law suspending government contributions to the Fund is unconstitutional.

OF 120 CW APPLICATIONS FILED WITH USCIS Only 36 CW-1 applications approved for hospital so far

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Many nonresident workers employed by the Commonwealth Health Center are still waiting for the approval of their work permit applications that were filed over a year ago with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that, as of Friday, only 36 applications have so far been approved by USCIS. The corporation filed 120 CW applications for its foreign employees.

In 2009, USCIS created the Transitional Worker visa classification for the CNMI. This visa classification arose from the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which extended certain provisions of U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI effective Nov. 28, 2009.

In order to gain CW status, an employer like the corporation must sponsor the employees for the status by filing petitions for a nonimmigrant worker with USCIS.

Since December 2011, the corporation filed CW applications for 120 non-immigrant workers, mostly for nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center, according to Babauta.

To his dismay, only a few

have so far been approved by the federal immigration agency despite complying with all the requirements and documentations.

Babauta said the long wait for the approval and processing of the workers' documents is an indication of the slow process employed by USCIS.

"This is causing uncertainty not only to the affected employees but to the public hospital as well because these worried workers are the critical staff of CHC. It's very disappointing that after a year of filing, we only got 36 approvals to date," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Pursuant to USCIS directive, a non-immigrant worker with pending CW application may continue to work. However, a new USCIS policy states that a foreign worker with a pending CW renewal application is not allowed to work until the petition is approved. Because of this situation, this creates instability among affected hospital employees.

Babauta said that USCIS must provide some consideration for hospital employees on island. Without such consideration for CHC employees, healthcare services on the islands will be put at risk, he added.

The public hospital is still striving to address deficiencies cited by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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Impeachment resolution to be formally introduced today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and 15 other representatives will be formally introducing in this morning's session a new resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

The speaker reiterated that the measure won't be voted on today. Rather, a seven-member special committee will be formally appointed to review and make recommendations on the resolution.

At the same time, the governor may be appointing Police Sgt. James Guer-

rero as Department of Public Safety commissioner, sources said. The police sergeant prevailed in a lawsuit against DPS over its discriminatory practices in promotion and hiring.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor has not made such appointment as of yesterday.

» Fitial may name sergeant as DPS commissioner

FLIGHTS

From Page 1

commuter terminal shortly before 8am with pilot Roland R. Mamuad and his seven passengers consisting of Arctic Circle Air's Anthony Pellegrino, general manager Amjad M. Fahroud, JMSH, LLC vice president Jae H. Hong, and reporters.

Upon arrival, the airline passengers and crew were greeted by resort staff who welcomed them with fresh leis. *Saipan Tribune* learned that a Korean family of four also left at 4pm yesterday for Rota where they will be staying for a month.

Arctic Circle Air officials said Thursday that they are offering thrice a day, six times a week passenger flights starting Monday with JMSH, LLC president Hee Cho's purchase of the airline company's majority of shares.

JMSH, LLC owns and operates Rota Resort & Country Club and hotel properties in Guam such as the Holiday Resort & Spa.

Rota Resort & Country Club handles the bookings and reservations. Bookings and reservations may be made by calling 532-1155.

With its \$179 per-passenger airfare, Arctic Circle Air offers a lower rate compared to existing airlines that offer similar services.

Pellegrino said in yesterday's press conference at Rota Resort & Country

Club's Pacifica Restaurant & Bar that they discovered the need to have passenger flights within months after they began cargo operations.

He said the inaugural flight is expected to jumpstart Arctic Circle Air's venture, with plans to expand company operations within the year by getting more planes as well as hiring additional pilots and other employees.

"It will take time, just like anything... But the concept is solid," he said.

Hong said they have been receiving a lot of inquiries regarding the flights.

"On behalf of the Rota Resort & Country Club management and staff, we are honored and pleased to have a contribution in the efforts to improve the quality of life of the people of Rota," said Hong.

He noted, however, that the Rota flights have no definite schedule and would depend on the passengers as they are charter-based, adding that they will try to arrange similar daily departure and arrival times.

Hong said that Monday's initial flight aboard the nine-seater Britten-Norman aircraft will have a great impact not only in the daily lives of Rota residents but also the tourism industry of the CNMI's southernmost island.

With the commencement of regular flights between Saipan and Rota, Hong said Arctic Circle Air is already looking at the best configuration for the 10 additional planes that will be added to the company's fleet.

For now, Hong said they have their eyes set on a brand-new, 19-seater Y-12 aircraft from China that is certified by the Federal Aviation Administration. The aircraft is believed to cost between \$5 million and \$7million.

Once the additional aircraft arrive, Hong disclosed plans to begin passenger services between Guam and Rota.

He acknowledged the cooperation of local leaders who have expressed support for Arctic Circle Air and Rota Resort & Country Club's endeavor, some of whom attended last week's press conference.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, who arrived in Monday's event shortly after his Guam business trip, said that Arctic Circle Air's launching of passenger flights gives better transportation access and improved air services for the community and potential visitors.

"You sympathize with the situation of Rota and we are very happy with your commitment to the island," said Mendiola, adding that it is a "wise decision" on the part of company to start their passenger services at a small scale, then later expand as the need arises.

Mendiola also challenged existing and other airlines, saying that this newest airline venture on Rota should not stop others from providing needed services on Rota and the rest of the CNMI.

"The more capability that Rota has, the more it can be served," he said.

The inaugural flight returned to Saipan before noon.

TOURISM

From Page 1

Yesterday marked the governor's first Cabinet meeting for the year.

Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and dozens of other government officials were shown several photos of unkempt tourist spots, dilapidated infrastructure, and dirty public restrooms that turn off tourists that the private sector has been bringing to CNMI shores, government officials in the meeting told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tourism arrivals and hotel occupancy have been picking up mainly because of new charter and increased regular flights, yet the upkeep and maintenance of many tourist sites are unable to keep up.

After a three-hour presentation that started at 9am, Tan left the Cabinet meeting in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill some 10 minutes before 12pm. Fitial continued to meet with his Cabinet secretaries and directors for some 30 minutes, wherein he formed a team to address the concerns and recommendations made.

Tan, in a three-minute interview with reporters, confirmed the gist of his presentation to government officials, which is the need to match the expectations of tourists brought into the CNMI.

"It's very simple. The tourists are coming here and I just want to share with them the information about the

beauty of what's happening in this island and it's time that the government also needs to put its effort, let's clean this island up, let's bring the product up—tourism—welcome them," he said, adding that new charter flights from the lucrative Beijing market have been bringing in additional tourists to the CNMI.

He said the industry expects average hotel occupancy to go as high as 75 to 80 percent in 2013, an improvement from 2012. Hotel rates have also been picking up.

"And it's time for us to get the product right—a product that matches the customers we bring in and we want to serve them well. ... We should promote the Hafa Adai spirit, get all the smiling face on this island," he said, adding that there should be "balance" between negative and positive news coming out of the CNMI. Tan Holdings owns *Saipan Tribune*.

He said politics should be set aside when it comes to addressing tourism needs. The CNMI is in the midst of another impeachment try. With enough votes, the new House leadership is poised to impeach the governor any time soon.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, who was in the Cabinet meeting, said the presentation was all about "revitalizing our tourism industry."

Tourism is the CNMI's only major tourism, some four years after the once flourishing garment industry pulled out.

'Special team'

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor and lieutenant governor "certainly welcome any feedback coming from stakeholders in the tourism industry, our primary industry in the CNMI."

"Following [Monday's] presentation, the administration now has a renewed energy to focus efforts into the needs of the tourism sector and destination enhancement," he said.

Demapan said the administration aims to establish a special team to take the lead in re-establishing the government's commitment to making the islands a safe and beautiful place to visit, he said.

The governor selected the following agencies to be on this team: The Marianas Visitors Authority, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, Office of the Mayor of Saipan, Department of Public Safety, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Public Lands, Zoning Office, Department of Commerce, and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"It will be the goal of this team to ensure that the safety and welfare of our tourists are prioritized," he said.

On the eve of the Cabinet meeting, some government officials said they find it "unusual" that a Cabinet meeting will be held on a holiday and were bracing for a major announcement from the governor. However, the meeting was all about tourism.

The governor's failure to appoint a DPS commissioner for Senate confirmation is one of the additions to the articles of impeachment in the revived resolution.

The speaker said last night that he heard the same thing—that the governor may already have a DPS commissioner appointee at this time—but he said this won't change the impeachment resolution.

"It's good that the governor would be appointing a DPS commissioner; however, that's not going to affect the impeachment resolution," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial has been alternating the appointment of an acting DPS commissioner between Ambrosio Ogumoro and Aniceto Ogumoro. But the gov-

CUC

From Page 1

suspension of procurement laws and other regulations and allow for reprogramming of funds to meet these emergencies.

CHC remains in arrears in its payments to vendors and salary payments to employees. The hospital's deteriorating financial condition is also affecting its ability to maintain adequate infrastructure, equipment and personnel, jeopardizing CHC's federal funding.

"CHC has been notified by federal authorities that, due to deficiencies in CHC operations and infrastructure, CHC will

ernor has not submitted either of their names to the Senate for its advice and consent.

This will be the second attempt to impeach Fitial. In the 17th Legislature, the governor-aligned House leadership easily voted down Deleon Guerrero's resolution. During the midterm election, majority of the voters removed almost all of the governor's allies, paving the way for a new House leadership that supports impeaching the governor.

Only 14 "yes" votes are needed to impeach the governor in the 20-member House, and the number of the resolution's co-sponsors is already 15. It also needs at least six "yes" votes in the nine-member Senate to convict the governor.

Fitial is the first governor in CNMI history to be a subject of a pre-filed and/or introduced impeachment resolution.

cease to be eligible for Medicare/Medicaid payments along with other penalties if the deficiencies are not promptly remediated," the governor said in his Jan. 18 executive order on CHC.

In a separate order, Fitial reiterated CUC's imminent failure and the need to provide immediate reliable power, water and wastewater services.

He said CUC is owed some \$14 million by the Public School System and CHC, and is owed millions more by residential users.

The governor also said that CUC often only has days' worth of diesel to power its system because it lacks the funds to buy fuel from its sole, cash-only suppliers.

FITCH

From Page 1

positive outlook reflects CPA's improved financial flexibility resulting from increased airport utilization and growth in pledged revenues and balance sheet liquidity.

Fitch indicated that enplanements strongly rebounded by nearly 26 percent in fiscal year 2012, erasing the loss experienced in fiscal year 2011. It also noted the CNMI's prospect of getting multiple airlines to begin and increase service levels.

Fitch cited that the CPA management's actions in fiscal 2009 to increase airline rates have also resulted

in improved net revenues with coverage increasing well above the 1.25 debt service requirement. Leases also increased in fiscal year 2012 and the construction of a new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Center is projected to further help the financial flexibility of the ports authority.

Other CPA projects that have been cited as potential sources of revenues include the regional ARFF training facility, which costs \$17 million; the main runway rehabilitation that is ongoing; the installation of new generators for the terminals; tower and airport fire station; and other renovation projects for the Commonwealth's three airports. The bulk of these projects are funded by Federal Aviation Administration grants.

FITIAL

From Page 2

School System needs funds to repair its water and wastewater systems.

"It will help reduce schools' respective billings. The SNILD will work on his reservations," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

SLL 17-18 appropriates \$149,446 from the developer's infrastructure tax fund for four Saipan projects.

These include \$94,446.98 for PSS' water and wastewater program and \$15,000 for the animal shelter sewer

disposal system. Another \$25,000 is for the construction of a crosswalk fronting Eucon International School and other locations on Saipan and \$15,000 for the construction and improvement of the drainage system by the San Antonio basketball court.

The new local law re-appropriates a fund balance of \$19,425 for from the construction and renovation of the Koblerville basketball court bleachers and shelter, the construction of two concrete picnic tables adjacent to Atmondegas Street in Koblerville, and the repair and renovation of the San Antonio basketball court fence and bleachers.

FUND

From Page 2

tlement conference, and in the interest of judicial economy, the court will hold all other pending motions in abeyance until the settlement process is completed," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

Matters in abeyance, she added, include teacher Phyllis M. Ain's

emergency motion to intervene in Johnson's lawsuit.

In light of the anticipated settlement conference, the judge said, the court will issue a briefing schedule for Ain's motion at a later time, if necessary.

Lt. Gov. S. Eloy Inos has agreed to have the CNMI government enter into a conference for a global settlement in connection with Johnson's class lawsuit.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Hundreds of adolescents gathered together at a youth summit at Kagman High School last Saturday to speak and discuss the issues affecting their lives. Organized by the Public School System's Youth Advisory Panel, middle and high school students and educators and mentors interacted with one another in a daylong forum that had the theme "Learning to Become a Better Me."

The occasion was highlighted by the life story of a formerly rebellious and self-destructive teen, Darlene Debraoh Tudela, who inspired many of the

Hundreds take part in daylong PSS Youth Summit

youth participants with her life-affirming tale.

Now a successful mother and career woman, Tudela said she is a product of a broken family, which she believes was the root cause of all her troubles during her teenage years. At 17, she described herself as a partygoer, an alcohol and marijuana user, and "a very troubled adolescent."

Reality came crashing down on her when she got pregnant at 20—a time that she said she was not ready for the responsibility. Tudela shared the many suffer-

ings and challenges she encountered in the years she's been striving to make a living for herself and her child. Without

any other choices, she was forced to leave her son with a family member so she could find a job elsewhere.

She moved to Guam and, because she didn't finish her education, she couldn't land a permanent job.

"[In doing all these troubles] I thought I could hurt my parents.

I thought they would suffer if I

will not graduate from high school...but I am wrong. It's not them who suffer, but me," she shared.

» Formerly rebellious teen inspires participants

Tudela shared how she worked hard to get a job so she could continue her studies and provide for her now 6-year-old son. She then joined the Department of Public Health's Community Guidance Center where she fell in love with the idea of working to assist the youth and the community.

In her recovery, Tudela shared her motivations to move forward. She said she focused on what she

can do and not what she can't do. That positive attitude helped her a lot and she makes sure she is surrounded by positive people as her support system.

Tudela was able to obtain a degree in behavioral science and is now working on her master's degree. She is now the director of a teen pregnancy prevention program of the Hawaii Youth Network.

Tudela told participants that "learning to become a better person is a long journey...and it should start now."

In her welcoming remarks, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., encouraged

teens to continue to speak about issues affecting them. This year's summit focused on financial burden, confidence, public speaking, underage drinking, destructive behavior, dealing with relationships, social networking, teen pregnancy, sex effects, self-image, bullying, and youth mentoring.

Summit participants were students from Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, Hopwood Junior High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School.



MONETH G. DEPOSA
Participants and guests of the Public School System's Youth Summit gather for a group photo during Saturday's event at Kagman High School.

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Simple small claims case turns into injunction matter

»Landlord turns off power and water supply to tenant's unit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A simple small claims case over non-payment of rent and utilities has turned into a complex preliminary injunction matter after a landlord turned off the electricity and water supply to his tenant's apartment unit before their scheduled court hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday ruled that, although tenant Zaji Zajradhara has not demonstrated that he had asked landlord Jesus S. Barcinas to correct the situation, the power and water supply were apparently cut

in an attempt at a self-help eviction, thus a request for a correction would likely be futile.

Camacho determined that Zajradhara has shown a likelihood of success in his claim for a breach of implied warranty of habitability.

"Here, the harm from not having power and water is likely to affect the livelihood, health, and well-being of a residential tenant, which is extremely difficult to calculate," the judge said.

The tenant, the judge said, presented evidence that he is currently employed and needs water as a basic necessity.

"Once his power was cut the

food in his refrigerator went bad," said Camacho, saying that courts consider this type of harm irreparable.

In issuing the preliminary injunction, Camacho prohibited Barcinas from employing self-help actions to evict Zajradhara, including changing the lock, shutting off the power or water, or entering the apartment without reasonable notice and permission from the tenant.

The judge also ordered Barcinas to immediately re-

store water and electricity to the tenant's unit.

Camacho, however, directed Zajradhara to deposit to the court \$364.77 based on the amount that Barcinas says he owes in rent and electricity.

According to court records, Barcinas brought a small claims case for rent and utilities against the tenant on Dec. 4, 2012. He said the tenant owes him \$918.88.

On Jan. 10, 2013, the court held a prejudgment hearing, and set the matter for an evidentiary

hearing on Feb. 7, 2013.

Zajradhara then filed in court a petition for emergency relief, claiming that on Jan. 11, 2013, Barcinas turned off the electricity and water in his apartment "in violation of Public Law 10-67."

The tenant asked the court to issue an order requiring Barcinas to reconnect water and electricity and "to not attempt a forced lockout."

In his ruling, Camacho said the testimony demonstrates that Barcinas caused the water and electricity to be turned off in Zajradhara's residential apart-

ment. In this case, Camacho said, injunctive relief is favored by public policy considerations.

Camacho pointed to the Hold-over Tenancy Act that provides a landlord with a means to evict a tenant, and requires notice to terminate a periodic tenancy.

The judge said he views the landlord's attempt at self-help against a residential tenant to be against public policy.

"The right to quiet possession in one's home is sacred and should not be disturbed until or unless the landlord makes an appropriate showing," Camacho said.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-ZB-064**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 31, 2013 * TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE ON SAIPAN FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE PROPOSER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DIEGO C. BLANCO
CHAIRMAN, ZONING BOARD

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DPS-051**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2013 * TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"TO ADMINISTER AND MANAGE DPS 408
GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 08, 2013 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE **IS NOT AVAILABLE** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, January 25, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor of the Captain George Fleming Building, at the Port of Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order 3. Adoption of Agenda

2. Roll Call 4. Adoption of Minutes (December 6, 2012)

II. BOARD ORGANIZATION

1. Election of Officers

2. Appointments of Standing Committee Chairs and members

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Financial Affairs Committee 3. Seaport Facilities Committee

2. Airport Facilities Committee 4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel Matters:

 a. Position Description and Employee Reclassification

 b. Issues/Concerns

2. Water Rescue Plan

3. Grant of Public Domain -Saipan

 a. Outer Cove Marina

 b. Lots along Industrial Drive (Westpac to Solid Builders)

 c. Submerged Land around Saipan Seaport

4. ATOSSCOM Report

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION/Legal Counsel Report

XI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ January 18, 2013
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

Repeat offender gets maximum sentence for stealing beer, gin

A repeat offender who committed another crime by stealing alcoholic beverages at a store in Oleai was sentenced to a maximum sentence of one year in prison.

"The court finds that the defendant failed to learn from his prior conviction and change his life to be a law-abiding citizen, therefore defendant's new criminal acts warrant greater retribution and incarceration to provide for lasting deterrence," said Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in sentencing Joseph Laniyo Lisua for theft.

The judge ordered the 26-year-old Lisua to serve the one-

year prison term day for day, without the possibility of parole, early release, work release, weekend release or any other similar program.

Lisua was given credit for four months of time served. After completing his sentence, he will be placed on probation for two years. He was required to pay \$25 court costs plus probation fee, perform 50 hours of community service, and pay restitution to Oleai Store.

Lisua is barred from going within 100 feet of Oleai Store and is required to report to the Community Guidance Center for alcohol and drug screening

assessment and complete any recommended counseling.

Lisua is not allowed to consume or possess any alcoholic beverages or controlled substances during his probation.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Lisua with burglary, theft, criminal trespass, conspiracy to commit burglary, and conspiracy to commit theft. He pleaded guilty to theft as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped.

According to court papers, Lisua conspired with a co-defendant to steal four cases of beer and one bottle of Ginebra Gin from Oleai

Store on Aug. 21, 2012.

Lisua was also convicted of theft in 2006 and sentenced to only 30 days, with 30 days credit for time served.

Last month, Camacho rejected Lisua's plea agreement after finding it too lenient. Camacho is known for rejecting lenient plea agreements and imposing maximum sentences particularly on habitual offenders.

Under the first plea deal, the government recommended a one-year sentence, all suspended except for three months with credit for three months time served. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Public invited to Chamorro Cultural Fest

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—The public is invited to attend the 4th Annual Chamorro Cultural Fest, a celebration of the food, music, art and dance of the Pacific Chamorro people. The event

offers free entertainment and activities at The Market Creek Plaza in southeast San Diego at 310 Euclid Avenue, on March 23, 2013, from 10am to 6pm.

Free cultural workshops are offered for all ages. Participants may enjoy weaving, dancing, or learning about the construction methods of the ancient Chamorros. A live stage will feature Chamorro traditional performers as well as contemporary artists. Island vendors come from far and wide to offer unique crafts and gift items. A raffle will award a trip to the Marianas or an iPad to the winning ticket holders.

The cultural event serves the San Diego community as well as Chamorros who come from as far away as Washington D.C. and the Chamorro Marianas islands of Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan in the western Pacific. This event is organized by the Che'lu, a non-profit organization of San Diego, CA. You can learn how to participate by visiting their website at www.CheluSD.org or emailing info@chelusd.org. **(PR)**

OBITUARY

This is to inform relatives, friends and co-workers of Rogelio "Ka Roger" R. Cada who passed away last Dec. 26, 2012, that the viewing of his remains will be on Wednesday Jan. 23, 2013, from 4pm to 5pm, at the Borja Funeral Parlor on Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan. His remains will be sent back to Philippines on Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at 6am via Delta Air Lines. For more information, contact Tina at 989-2028 or Manny at 888-9544.

Office of Transit Authority

Office of the Governor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its first FY 2013 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 31, 2013, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Governor's Executive Conference Room, 1st Floor, Administration Bldg., Saipan. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Preliminary Agenda

Presiding – Thomas J. Camacho, Chairman

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome & Introduction of New Members & Staffs and Guests

III. Roll Call

IV. New Business

A. New Staff and Board Membership Orientation

B. CPTAB Operating Bylaws

C. Propose COTA's Vision and Mission

D. Propose COTA's Goals and Objectives

E. COTA's Office Space/One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource & Information Service Center

F. Status: ADA Para-Transit System: Saipan Call-a-Ride Transportation Services for People with Disabilities and Elderly (Driver Volunteer Program & Vehicles)

G. CNMI Transportation Master Plan

H. Saipan Flex/Deviation Route System Study

I. Purchase of 15-20 Passenger Mini Buses

J. Purchase of Office Vehicles

K. Transportation Management Software/Hardware

L. Saipan Transit Service (ADA Para-Transit and Flex/Deviation Route)

M. COTA's Propose New Administration (One-Call/One-Click Center) Building and future Vehicle/Bus Maintenance, Repair & Storage Facility

N. Ferry Boat Feasibility Study (DPW/FHwA)

O. New COTA Website Development

V. Reports

A. COTA Annual Report to Governor and Presiding Officers of the Legislature

VI. Fund Status and Pending Grant

A. FTA FY 2012 Urbanized Formula Grant

B. FTA VTCLI II Grant

C. FTA FY 2013 Rural Formula Grant

VII. Next Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA 3 days in advance at 664-2200.

/S/ **THOMAS J. CAMACHO**
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

EMO warns of hazardous surf until tonight

A large north swell will produce hazardous surf along north facing shores of the Mariana Islands today, Jan. 22, according to the

Emergency Management Office.

A small craft advisory and a high surf advisory are in effect until 6am Wednesday.

Along north facing shores, dangerous surf is expected to decrease to hazardous levels of 9 to 12 feet by Tuesday. Along

east facing shores, surf is expected to diminish below hazardous levels by Tuesday. Along west facing shores, surf is ex-

pected to fall below hazardous levels by Tuesday.

A high surf warning indicates that dangerous battering waves

will pound the shoreline. This will result in very dangerous swimming conditions and deadly rip currents. Coastal erosion or property damage is likely in low-lying areas or where wave action is close to shore. This is most likely at high tide, which will occur between 2pm and 3pm.

Winds of 30 mph or more are expected. Winds this strong can make driving difficult for high profile vehicles. Tarps, trash cans, and other light outdoor items should be secured.

EMO is advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. **(EMO)**

Footloose: A journey from film to stage

Footloose first burst onto the silver screen in 1984 and proved to be one of that year's most successful motion pictures. The soundtrack recording reached No. 1 on the Billboard charts, and went on to sell over 17 million copies worldwide, generating such Top 40 hits as the title song, *Let's Hear It For The Boy*, (both of which received Academy Award nominations), *Almost Paradise*, *Holding Out For A Hero*, and *I'm Free*

(*Heaven Helps the Man*). With a screenplay and lyrics by Oscar winner Dean Pitchford, the story focuses on young people, as does his previous, wildly successful movie musical, *Fame*.

Its journey to the Broadway stage began in 1996 when director Walter Bobbie collaborated on a stage adaptation with Dean. After Tom Snow and Dean added new songs to supplement the already existing hits, Walter directed the first of

a series of workshops. Work on *Footloose* was temporarily suspended, however, so that Walter could open his acclaimed revival of *Chicago* on Broadway (for which he'd go on to win the 1997 Tony Award), a success that he repeated in London.

Footloose finally previewed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in summer of 1998, and opened on Broadway on Oct. 22. The next day, the show broke the box office re-

cord for the Richard Rodgers Theatre, where it continued to thrill audiences well into July 2000. During the course of its New York run, *Footloose* also enjoyed successful national and bus-and-truck tours.

In 2011, Paramount Pictures' remake of *Footloose*—with a screenplay by Dean Pitchford and the film's director Craig Brewer—brought this heartwarming story and

electrifying music to a whole new generation.

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club's will stage its production of *Footloose* on Thursday, Jan. 24, and Friday, Jan. 25, at 7pm each night at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall. Admission is \$5. Production of *Footloose* is presented through special arrangement with R&H Theatricals, www.rnh.com. **(R&H Theatricals)**



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Youth Congress swears in 2 replacements

»Plans for youth summit underway



Speaker Shelane D. Borja, center, of the 13th CNMI Youth Congress, is flanked by, from left, Youth Congress Sens. Angela Mamaril, Peter Paul H. Camacho, Mona Sierra Q. Manglona and Marquina Hofschneider during a seven-minute session on Saturday morning to swear in Camacho and Manglona, both completing the unfinished terms of previous members. The Youth Congress is planning its 2013 youth summit tentatively set for March 22.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

13th CNMI Youth Congress Speaker Shelane D. Borja swore into office two replacement members—Mona Sierra Q. Manglona of Rota and Peter Paul H. Camacho—during a seven-minute session Saturday morning followed by almost an hour of planning for a youth summit tentatively set for March 22.

Five of the seven Youth Congress senators were in attendance, including the newly sworn in members who are finishing the terms of two other previous members. Others present were newly elected legislative secretary Marquina Hofschneider and floor leader Angela H. Mamaril.

Manglona, a student at Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. and Sr. High School, said she's honored to have been chosen as Youth

Congress representative of Rota and spoke of the "great responsibility of speaking out" for the CNMI youth.

"It will not be an easy task to solve each and every problem, but as we venture into our new responsibilities and roles, we must look at these problems as challenges—challenges to create a better CNMI," Manglona said, thanking those who have helped her get to where she is now.

Camacho, a senior student at Kagman High School, said in the short time he will be serving as Youth Congress senator, he wishes to pass at least one piece of legislation—a more stringent rule against betel nut spitting in public places over health and sanitation and tourism concerns.

"I intend to be a politician, and I will be taking up political science with emphasis on economics," Camacho told

Saipan Tribune. Camacho was a recipient of the 2012 Junior Statesmen of America program scholarship and was also invited to the February 2013 National Youth Leadership Forum, both in Washington, D.C.

His mother, Isabel, was also in the House chamber on Capitol Hill on Saturday for her son's swearing-in.

"I am very proud of him. I know he likes to be a Youth Congress member because he's very much interested in politics," said his mother, an employee at the Department of Finance's Payroll Section.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) was the only lawmaker in attendance, along with a few parents, relatives, Youth Congress clerk Christine Castro, legislative assistant Joel Camacho, and House legal counsel John Cool.

Saturday's Youth Congress

session, set for 10am, didn't start until 10:44am and was adjourned at 10:51am. While the session lasted only seven minutes, the subsequent meeting to plan for the Youth Congress Summit lasted almost an hour. The summit budget is \$1,000.

Borja said the youth summit, tentatively set for March 22, will focus on three major issues: teen pregnancy, public speaking and self-esteem, which she said covers bullying, self-harm/suicide, and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) awareness.

"We will be inviting resource speakers including those our own age who would share with us their experiences and knowledge about these issues," she said.

The Youth Congress will also be partnering with the Micronesia Youth Service Network, which plans to hold its summit in the CNMI from April 17 to 21, Borja said.

MINA launches climate change awareness activities

To heighten awareness and understanding about climate change and its potential impact to low-lying islands like the Marianas, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will be engaging students and teachers

through a series of climate change workshops and activities.

The workshops, titled "Schools for Environmental Change," are designed for high school teachers and student leaders so they can learn about the different effects of climate changes and the impacts specific to the CNMI.

Climate change is a growing concern in many parts of the world, including the CNMI. These workshops are meant to localize this global issue and let teachers and students openly discuss the potential consequences of a warming climate. For instance,

many schools on island are located in low-lying areas and may be affected by rising water levels caused by climate change.

In addition to learning from environmental experts, teachers and students will also be given an opportunity to develop a conservation action plan, which can then be implemented at their respective high schools.

"We hope that through the 'Schools for Environmental Change' workshops, students and teachers alike openly discuss the potential impact of climate change on a tiny island like ours," said Rica Dela Cruz,

Environmental Camp Project Manager. "We also hope to promote behavioral changes that can help minimize that impact."

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to conserve and restore the array of habitats that sustain the Commonwealth's natural biodiversity and heritage. The organization is composed of individuals, mostly volunteers, who are passionate about preserving the environment and who consider environmental stewardship an important, lifelong responsibility. (MINA)

USCG, Navy partner to locate vessel in distress

APRA HARBOR, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard and Navy search and rescue crews are partnering to provide assistance to the crew of a 54-foot Taiwanese flagged fishing vessel *Yow Hsu Man*, located approximately 80 nautical miles northwest of Guam.

Coast Guard Sector Guam watchstanders have been monitoring the vessel for the last 48 hours after receiving a report that the master was experienc-

ing medical complications.

The last communications with the vessel were late Sunday evening. The condition of the master and the vessel are unknown at this time. There are nine total crewmembers onboard.

A helicopter crew from the USN Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 has launched to locate the vessel and assess the situation. Coast Guard Cutter *Washington* and A good Samari-

tan vessel, *Ardmore Centurion*, a 540-foot Marshallese tanker, are also underway to assist, and are currently experiencing 18-foot seas and winds in excess of 20-knots.

All attempts to hail *Yow Hsu Man* thus far have been met with silence. The Coast Guard has enlisted the help of Mandarin and Indonesian speakers to assist in the radio call-outs to the vessel. (USCG)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 22, 2001

BPL cancels mining permits in Pagan

The Board of Public Lands last week voted to cancel commercial leases held by three mining companies bound under signed agreements to perform pozzolan and basalt extraction on the island of Pagan. According to sources, the board moved to revoke the 20-year contracts following complaints of an apparent lack of progress in the mining projects which has resulted in substantial loss to the local government due to non-payment of permit and royalty fees. J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry Inc., Fareast Mining Inc., and CNMI Mining Inc. were stripped last Thursday by the public lands board of authority to further quarry, mine, remove, or market pozzolan and basalt on the remote island.

Youth Congress pushes for trade skills development

CNMI's youngest policy-makers are embarking on plans to establish with the Northern Marianas College a center for trade skills development in a bid to arm local youths with practical know-how in various areas of business. Members of the 3rd CNMI Youth Congress on Saturday passed the "CNMI Trade School Act of 2001" which aims to support the creation of a trade school with direct supervision from NMC. The proposed institution is targeted to serve as a venue where youths can advance their skills and knowledge in wood crafting, pottery-making, mental work, auto/aviation mechanics, to name few.

Jan. 22, 2002

Residents to rally against abortion

Saipan residents will gather tonight at the American Memorial Park to press for immediate government action that would stop unscrupulous individuals in the Northern Marianas from engaging into abortion practices. Program coordinator Lulu Malone invites the public to join the Rally for Life march at 5pm from the American Memorial Park to the DFS Galleria and back. The rally is aimed at emphasizing that abortion remains unacceptable in the CNMI. "The plight of the unborn will not go unheard in the CNMI as individuals, churches, and organizations unite to support the cause of protecting their lives," said Malone.

New Disabilities Handbook launched

After completing field tests of the Northern Marianas College's "Teaching Students with Disabilities: Faculty and Teaching Staff Handbook," the designers of the handbook have declared it a success. According to Dr. John B. Joyner, director and coordinator of the NMC Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Services, the SWD Handbook underwent six months of rigorous field-testing. After using the Handbook for six months, NMC Faculty, PSS teachers and teacher-aides, NMC college students, parents, and community health care providers highly praised the simplicity and wealth of information contained in the Handbook.

Jan. 22, 2003

Govt employees assured of protection

The Babauta Administration has drafted a bill that aims to protect the employment benefits of government employees who volunteer for the five-hour reduction scheme. Maya Kara, legal counsel of the Lt. Governor's Office, said during yesterday's staff meeting at the Department of Labor and Immigration that the proposed bill will be sent to the Legislature anytime now. "Employees will be protected. The government would make sure that this workhour reduction will not be held against you. If you volunteer, there's no detriment to you," she said. The legal counsel disclosed this in response to an issue raised by a department staff regarding a potential workforce reduction.

More federal screeners deployed

The Transportation Security Administration completed its federalization of the Saipan International Airport as check-in counters now use federal screeners, in full compliance with inspection policies implemented across the United States. Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday disclosed that 35 federal screeners from Utah are now on Saipan to train local screeners who will man inspection of all baggage at the airline check-in counter of the Saipan airport. The federal screeners from Utah are now stationed at the airline counter and are responsible for the inspection of all "for check-in" luggage. They will soon train federal screeners who will be hired locally, and eventually replace them as TSA-mandated inspectors at the Saipan airport's airline counter.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy third birthday to our beautiful little boss and daddy's girl, Lisa Marie Litulumar Taman! God bless you always and may you have many more birthdays to come! We love you always, Lisa Girl! So much love and blessings going to you from the family, Mommy, Daddy, most especially from your big brother L.J. Boy and baby sister Kyuwi.

Trustee *ad litem* seeks payment of \$94,730 for Nov., Dec.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joseph C. Razzano seeks to be paid \$94,730.11 for his work as NMI Retirement Fund trustee *ad litem* for the months of November and December 2012.

For November, Razzano and the Law Offices of Civile & Tang where he is a member asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to approve the payment of \$17,695 in total fees plus \$88.40 in costs and expenses, for a total of \$17,783.

Of that amount, \$7,325 is for Razzano's work for 29.30 hours and the rest is for three other lawyers in the Civile & Tang law firm.

For November, the *ad litem* asked the court to approve the payment of \$26,403.40 in total fees and costs and expenses for retained counsels Brad-dock Huesman and Daniel J. Berman.

Huesman's total fee is \$14,500, while Berman's is \$11,625. Berman's law partner, Charles McDon-

ald, also seeks \$277.50, for a total of \$26,402.50 for the three lawyers. In addition, Berman charged \$1.90 for postage.

For December, Razzano and the Law Offices of Civile & Tang seeks payment of \$12,022.50 in fees and \$484.56 in costs and expenses, for a total of \$12,507.06.

Of the \$12,022.50 in total fees, \$8,112.50 is for Razzano's work for 32.45 hours and the rest is for the two other lawyers in the Civile & Tang law firm.

For December, the *ad litem* also requested payment of \$38,037.25 in total fees and costs and expenses for Huesman and Berman.

Huesman's total fees is \$12,480, while Berman's total fees is \$24,500, for \$36,980 in total fees for both law firms. The two law firms also demanded \$1,057.25 for costs and expenses.

For the months of September and October, Razzano was paid \$60,949.83; Huesman, \$1,960; and Berman, \$17,975.72.

Man, 42, allegedly sexually assaulted minor

Police arrested last week a 42-year-old man who allegedly sexually assaulted a girl in Kagman.

Police served Ray Anthony Ayuyu with an arrest warrant Thursday night on charges of sexual assault in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, incest, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

During Friday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$50,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Thursday, Jan. 24.

Police detective Nicholas C. Leon Guerrero Jr. stated in his report that a patrol officer responded to a residence in Kagman on Nov. 29, 2012, to investigate a complaint of sexual abuse of a minor.

The patrol officer talked to a 14-year-old girl who claimed that Ayuyu touched her private parts in September 2012.

The girl alleged that the suspect sexually abused her on at least two occasions while she

was showering.

Assistant public defender Matt Meyer was appointed counsel for Ayuyu. Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll appeared for the government at the hearing. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



BEACH CLEANUP

Members of the Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association and customers pick up trash from Laulau Beach on Dec. 21, 2012. Marianas Visitors Authority bush cut the site the day before as part of the ongoing adoption of the site by the two groups. Participating NMDOA members were Blue Jasper, Brilliant Saipan, Dive Site, MSC, Peace Divers, S2 Club, and Sea Lovers. Laulau Beach is one of the most popular dive sites in the Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA



(1) Landscaping Supervisor

Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Plans, schedule, assign and supervise the landscaping, seeding, weeding, cultivating, and general care of the hotel grounds. Plans and supervises cultivation, pruning, spraying and transplanting of a large variety of shrubs and trees. Plans and supervise operation of a greenhouse. Train and supervise crew of groundskeepers. Responsible for the maintenance of equipment used on the job site. Must have 3 years experience in horticulture or landscape architecture at supervisory level. Must have knowledge of how to protect trees and plants from diseases and insect infections. Strong customer service skills. Requires occasionally lifting of heavy objects and exposure to weather. Must be able to work a varied schedule including week-ends and holidays.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

FAMILY COURT MANAGER

On the island of Saipan

DUTIES: The successful candidate will be responsible for planning, managing, administering, coordinating, and implementing operations and activities of specific programs within the Family Court Division. He or she will function as program liaison of the family court, to the community and to the ancillary programs.

The Family Court Manager will supervise the performance of the administrative staff and assist the Superior Court in securing funds and other resources necessary for the effective operation of the Family Court Division. He or she will prepare various types of administrative reports and correspondence on Family Court Division assignments/projects and program activities and assist in preparing the annual budget of the Family Court Division.

The Family Court Manager will work under the direct supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court. **QUALIFICATIONS:** The Family Court Manager should have a Bachelors of Science or Bachelors of Arts Degree from an accredited institution, plus a minimum of three (3) years of professional and managerial experience involving the implementation, coordination, and supervision of program activities with demonstrated professionalism maintaining confidential records and statistics.

COMPENSATION: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge of the CNMI Superior Court. Annual salary will be: \$40,000-45,000.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Office of Personnel Management in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe / House of Justice in Susupe or at the Superior Court Office on Tinian and Rota. Completed application, cover letter, resume with references, police clearance, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI should be submitted to: Human Resource / Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O.Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9716 Fax. (670)236-9702

This job announcement will remain open until February 1st, 2013. A job application and the full edition of the Family Court Manager's Job Vacancy Announcement are available at the CNMI Judiciary's web site: <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>.

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Roger Taitano and
Hazel Taitano
P.O. Box 506395
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 989-3096

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The
Adoption Of:
M.M.V.T. (D.O.B. 10/24/2006)
Minor Child

By:

**Roger Anthony Taitano
and Hazel Taitano**
Petitioners.

FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION 12-0599 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 28, 2013 at 1:30 pm in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation - the world's largest publicly traded integrated petroleum and natural gas company which operates facilities and markets products globally and explores for oil and natural gas on six continents. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Aviation Project Engineer

Description:

Monitoring engineering, maintenance, construction and repair activities of the Aviation Depots upgrade projects. Managing and controlling capital expenditures and operating expenses for projects at two Aviation facilities to ensure established standards of efficiency, safety, costs and timeliness are met. Responsible for ensuring that SH&E (Safety, Health and Environment) and ExxonMobil's internal Operations Integrity Management System (OIMS) are included in projects, to demonstrate commitment towards SH&E, OIMS, Hydrocarbon accountability and similar corporate guidelines and global practices.

Location:

Saipan Aviation Depot, Dan Dan.

Primary Job Functions:

- Site supervision which includes and requires overseeing projects' execution, coordination, preparation and implementation of the various OIMS requirements with the construction contractors, Aviation operations, Aviation operations group, suppliers, design engineers and affiliate advisors.
- Technical support for facility design, maintenance and repair activities of the Aviation Depots upgrade projects.
- Adhere to Safety, Health and Environment programs that require a dynamic and proactive approach to ensure the safety and health of the community as well as employees.
- Facilitate OIMS processes in procurement, work control and the environment to help improve efficiencies in project management.
- Interfacing with Safety, Engineering and Technical Advisor, Aviation Operations Manager, Safety Advisors, Contractors, depot personnel, Environmental and Governmental representatives.
- Maintain updated Engineering projects on Global Engineering Database and Aviation Equipment and Design Specification Manual.

Qualifications:

- Engineering education with a BS degree in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical or Petroleum Engineering.
- Experience in engineering design, engineering project management and construction management in civil or mechanical works.
- Must be familiar with computer applications in spreadsheet, word processing, project scheduling and planning, materials specifications and construction drawings.
- Understanding of Federal and Local regulations as they apply to engineering and construction.
- Good Interpersonal skills.
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing in English.

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:

- Experience in computer aided design
- Previous experience in Aircraft refuelling
- Previous experience in Petroleum Industry

Interested candidates should send an indication of interest to be considered to:

Marlenna Tanayan, Human Resources
642 East Marine Corps Drive, Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 671-648-3786
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Hero becomes a bore at last

By RICHARD PARKER
McClatchy-Tribune News Service*Richard Parker is a regular contributor to McClatchy-Tribune and The New York Times. Hardy Gest contributed research to this article.*

AUSTIN, Texas—For all his athletic achievements, with or without doping, cheating, lying and intimidation, Lance Armstrong was never a hero.

Strangely, his confession—after a decade of being hounded for cheating his way to the top of his sport and our celebrity culture—provides a kind of opportunity for all of us to rethink who we think are heroes. It seems absurd that we cull heroes of any sort at all from the worlds of politics and power, let alone from sports and entertainment. All this raises the question: Who, really, is a hero? And do we need heroes at all?

It is ironic, in the extreme, that at the same time that the television screen carries Armstrong's iron-jaw confession, bereft of at least a show of remorse, it also carries the bizarre story of another alleged hero, Notre Dame's Manti Te'o. However he became embroiled in the fake, dead girlfriend affair, was an iconic hero really a college kid who played for a not-so-great team? It appears that our definition of a hero has, indeed, slipped that far.

The very word hero is derived from the Greek word of the first century—and it is almost entirely based upon myth. The hero, to cite Merriam-Webster (not Wikipedia) was either legendary or divine, or both. He was an illustrious warrior on a quest and appeared in epic poetry like "The Illiad" or "Gilgamesh," or "The Aeneid." The hero was Beowulf destroying the monster, Grendel. In not so many words it came down to this: The hero was never real.

Over time, however, it has become common for people with fame, money and power to try to grab the mantle of demi-god, and for a very simple reason. Becoming one—or rather, convincing others that you are one—invokes more fame, money and power. The trail is littered with heroes in business, politics, entertainment and sports who had talent, yes, but they just wanted more power, money and fame. Tiger Woods, John Edwards, the lions of Wall Street or Bill Clinton. The list is so long we actually forget who's gone through the cycle of public contrition and restoration. I mean who remembers what Kanye West, Kobe Bryant, and, say, Alec Baldwin even did? And why did it even matter.

And, with the help of our star-struck story-tellers in the mass media, many of us went along until they did not so much fall from grace but were revealed—voilà—to have never been heroic at all. Instead, they were just talented mortals with extraordinary ambition, which almost always involves the temptation to lie, steal or cheat. The notion that a professional athlete, who is hard-wired to do anything to win at any cost to anyone, could be a leadership figure is preposterous on its face and has been all along.

A few days ago, I received a phone call from *The Independent* of London about the Lance Armstrong escapade; frankly, it doesn't even deserve the moniker of scandal. I was asked if somehow Austin was circling the wagons around Armstrong or if the city he has called home was mortified. I put the phone down and asked my friend Patrick what he thought. He replied:

See HERO on Next Page



Japan's leaders still won't acknowledge country's wartime atrocities

By BILL GUTTENTAG and DAN STURMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

This month 75 years ago, the people of Nanking, China's ancient capital city, were in the midst of one of the worst atrocities in history, the infamous Rape of Nanking. The truth of what actually happened is at the center of a bitter dispute between China and Japan that continues to play out in present-day relations. Many Chinese see Japan's election last month of ultraconservative nationalist Shinzo Abe as prime minister as just the latest in a string of insults. And it was recently reported that Japan is considering rolling back its 1993 apology regarding "comfort women," the thousands of women the Japanese army sexually enslaved during World War II.

In 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army, captured Nanking on Dec. 13. No one knows the exact toll the Japanese soldiers exacted on its citizens, but a postwar Allied investigation put the numbers at more than 200,000 killed and at least 20,000 women and girls raped in the six weeks after the city fell.

In 2006, we traveled to China and to Japan to interview victims and soldiers who took part in the massacre. One former Japanese soldier explained, without a hint of regret: "We all drew straws, and the man who pulled out the one marked first, he brushed off her face tenderly and treated her pretty, yes, and then proceeded to rape her. As their daughter was being raped, the parents would come outside and gesture to us, 'Please spare her!' They'd bang their heads on the ground and plead with us. We'd take one girl and five of us would hold her down."

In China, a 79-year-old man tearfully described how, at 9 years old, he watched a soldier bayonet his mother to death as she breast fed his brother. Another man saw his 13-year-old sister sliced in half by a Japanese soldier after she resisted being raped. Elderly women told harrowing stories of the rapes they endured as young girls.

It was the mass rapes in Nanking and the brutalization of an entire populace that eventually convinced Japanese military leaders that they needed to contain the chaos. Japanese soldiers began rounding up women and forcing them to serve as sex slaves in so-called comfort stations.

This is what most historians believe. But not in Japan, where a large faction of conservatives, led by Abe, denies that the Japanese military forced women into sexual slavery. They maintain that any suggestion to the contrary is simply anti-Japanese propaganda and probably spread by China. At the furthest end of the spectrum, the minimizing turns to flat-out denial; one professor we interviewed at a top Japanese university adamantly insisted there were no killings or rapes in Nanking.

Not surprisingly, all this minimizing and denial enrages the Chinese and others in Asia. But this is a familiar pattern.

Abe has visited the controversial Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo and has said he plans to visit again as prime minister. This is the place where the souls of more than 2 million Japanese war dead are said to be enshrined. Among them are 14 men convicted at the end of World War II of what are known as Class-A war crimes, including Iwane Matsui, the general who led Japanese forces in Nanking.

It's also informative to walk just a few yards to the Yushukan, the museum affiliated with the Yasukuni shrine. There, as we surveyed the exhibits on the Great East Asian War (World War II to much of the rest of the world), we were surprised to learn that Franklin D. Roosevelt had forced Japan to go to war in a calculated effort to lift the U.S. out of the Depression. (This exhibit was recently revised to omit the Depression reference; now it just says the U.S. forced Japan into bombing Pearl Harbor.)

Fueled by such an aggrieved interpretation of Japan's wartime past, Abe and his party are leading efforts to amend Article 9 of the nation's postwar constitution, which mandates that Japan not maintain a standing army. This comes at a time of escalating tension with China, much of it focused on the Senkaku islands. And Abe's government is considering revising what is known as the Kono Statement, a 1993 apology Japan made for the comfort women, an issue of great meaning to China and other nations that had women forced into sexual slavery.

It seems unlikely that the region will erupt into armed conflict over three tiny islands or repeal of the apology. And it can be argued that the move to amend the constitution shouldn't be a cause for great alarm because Japan already has a well-armed self-defense force.

What is alarming is that the leaders of Japan — and a large and vocal minority of its citizens — have an understanding of their country's wartime history that is grounded primarily in fiction. The Rape of Nanking is not in dispute. There is abundant eyewitness testimony from foreign observers, victims and Chinese and Japanese soldiers; contemporaneous news accounts; horrifying forensic and photographic evidence; and even film footage, surreptitiously shot by an American missionary.

Japanese denial in the face of all this ensures that a historical event will continue to fan the flames of anger and distrust. The sooner the facts are recognized and Japanese leaders renounce paying tribute to mass killers and rapists, the sooner true healing can begin.

Bill Guttentag is a lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He and Dan Sturman directed the documentary film Nanking, which won a Peabody Award in 2009. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Confused much?**

Former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente is going around saying he knows what “the people’s mandate” is. He thinks that when the people voted against some incumbent legislators, they were actually voting against the governor. Is Diego maybe projecting his own anger at the governor, ever since the governor said that Diego Benavente lacks education?

In case Mr. Benavente needs a refresher course on elections, this election was for the Legislature, not the governor. The last time we voted for a governor, Fitial and Inos were the people’s choice, loud and clear—as they still are. “The public has spoken clearly,” as Diego Benavente would say.

In a classic flip-flop, Diego threatens the incoming legislators, saying, “I would never make a statement that may be perceived as a threat...but one has to be careful when voting against the impeachment.” Care to elaborate, Diego? What kind of threat are you “not

making” here? Is this your kind of “transparent government”—mafia-style threats?

And after the governor’s State of the Commonwealth address, highlighting some of the governor’s accomplishments, positive prospects for the near future, and a humble admission of some very human errors the governor made, what do we get from Diego? Only a comment that “There was no sincerity there.”

But where is Diego’s sincerity? And where is his allegiance to the people? We know what he’s really interested in: pleasing the incoming crew of politicians, maybe so he could secure a lucrative consulting contract. Mr. Benavente has been masterful at using his political connections to help his business interests, and he’s certainly not stopping now. We’ll just wait which of the incoming legislators will throw him a bone in the form of meaningless consulting contracts. That’s what Diego will be watching

for, not your interests as citizens, and certainly not the Commonwealth’s interests.

Maybe Diego, due to his lifetime as a political lackey and history of flip-flopping and going in and out of government, is confused between the current governor and his own disastrous stint as a hopeless former lieutenant governor? Maybe, despite resigning from his seat and abandoning his constituents, Diego thinks he is still a legislator? Confused much, Diego? Don’t worry, Diego: the people know who’s who and what’s what, even if you don’t. Out of you and Ben Fitial, only one represents the people, and only one is well-educated. You might not know who’s who, but we, the people, certainly do.

Walt Cabrera Jr.
Kagman II, Saipan

A very clear mandate

Earlier this week Mr. Froilan C. Tenorio gave a statement that people of the CNMI are not making sense by their move to impeach the incumbent governor, Mr. Benigno Fitial. This sentiment parallels the statement publicly expressed just about the same time by Mr. Benigno Fitial’s spokesperson, implying that in the end it would not make a difference to impeach the incumbent governor because the next person who would inherit the same office would face the same social, economic, and political problems facing the CNMI. These statements appear to be saying that Mr. Benigno Fitial is too big to fail.

In the eyes of the silent majority of the people of the CNMI, the mandate is very simply a clear one: It is not a matter that a person is elected to fill the governor’s position and Mr. Fitial was chosen for that purpose. What matters is that the people of the CNMI are taking back the Governor’s Office that belongs to them, the governed. The CNMI people have been placed in the grinding stone for too long, no prior governor or lieutenant governor would stand in the way to exercise a mandate by the silent majority of the CNMI people if they have good reason to believe that the incumbent is no longer fit to hold the honor of the office he was chosen to assume. The incumbent’s declaration that he made serious mistakes and clothe his misdeeds with an apology without asking for forgiveness is proof enough that Mr. Benigno Fitial betrayed a sworn oath of office. A cry for

apology without true repentance is not settling well in the eyes and minds of the silent majority of the CNMI people.

The two separate entities involved in the present process being undertaken by the CNMI Legislature consist of the Office of the Governor and the incumbent who is filling the honor of the office after being elected by the people of the CNMI. People are not interested in the Office of the Governor, because for as long we have a republican form of government such as the CNMI Constitution provides, that office would continue to exist regardless whether Mr. Benigno Fitial or any other person is bestowed the honor to fill this office. What matters is that the silent majority of the people of the CNMI is exercising its option to take back what belongs to them, the Office of the Governor. So in this rational argument, the elected officials in the Legislature should be given fair warning that they are also on notice that if they do not fulfill the mandate of the silent majority, their status as elected representatives of the silent majority would be on the track for the next general election and that would be on the grinding stone as well. On the other hand, any incumbent in the Judiciary that sidesteps and put this social/political issue in the back burner would be a case for consideration come the election for retention of office some time in the near future. Judges are not immune to this situation; we all know of several judges who were removed by popular election.

Lawmakers should fix the Fund mess

Dear lawmakers: Because the NMI Retirement Fund has no more money to meet its obligations, I think it’s only fair that everyone should be treated the same. Calculate the remaining amount of contributions and base everyone’s paycheck on it and make it the same as everyone else until such time that the government pays its debt.

For those retirees who don’t have jobs anymore, the government should be held responsible for helping them find a job or assistance.

It is not the active members’ fault that the Fund cannot pay them. Past lawmakers are the one responsible for this mess. It is bad enough that we are paying fuel charge, why are you going to use the active members’ contributions to help prolong the Fund’s lifespan?

There are many people in the community who are jobless and are living on food stamp and Medicaid, and you didn’t have the same concern for them as the retirees.

Many who lost their jobs and cannot retire are suffering to make ends meet. Not only are they struggling to save their homes from foreclosure, they will also go to jail, they lose their collateral, even health insurance, and you didn’t pity them. Why now are you going to pity only the retirees and not the active members who are about

to lose everything? This is so inhumanly insane.

Yes, the retirees are depending on their pay check every 15 days to pay for their obligations and for their living needs, but this is not a good reason for the Fund to use active members’ contribution to pay for their sins.

I think it is only fair to separate the active members’ contributions from that of the retirees and from there calculate each member’s share and notify each member about it. With the remaining share you should calculate how much they want every 15 days and let them know how many years it will last them.

Since you made new laws to allow active members to withdraw or to transfer to the other retirement plan, I think everyone should be treated the same. Pay the retirees only whatever remains of their share. You should not use other funds to pay retirees. They should receive whatever remaining share they have. Paying them the amount they are supposed to receive will never solve this mess we’re in today.

If the government has money to pay them, then the Fund should pay them the amount due them until the day they die, but since there is no more money to pay them, I think they should not be paid based

on the regular amount. I believe lawmakers should come up with a law to pay retirees based on their contributions as stated in PL 17-82. In that way it is fair for all DB members. If you don’t address it this way, both active and retired DB members will continue to file complains about this matter.

It is unfair that PL 17-82 should apply to active members only. It should be applied to all DB members too until such time that the government pays the \$300 million it owes the Fund. Otherwise, you will never resolve this matter.

Stop using the active members’ contributions to cover for your mess. Endure the consequences and start finding ways to pay them.

And since active members want their contributions back, I think it’s only fair that you return them now. Stop wasting time and start looking for ways to fix this mess. And since you don’t have much money, I think you should consider cutting your salary and your monthly allowances, too.

Show us that your are what you promised during the campaign!

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

HERO

From Page 10

“We’ve moved on.” I relayed that message over the phone, however anecdotal and perhaps disappointing.

And everybody should just move on. Armstrong’s performance in his interview was gritty and determined and part of the ridiculous cycle of contrition—and a return to money, fame and power. It is trite and predictable as a stopwatch. But it should give pause to any-

one putting stock in nothing more than ambition. When the Greek became the Latin and the Latin became the English, the definition of a hero evolved to include a character in a play or story, people who played a role, say, in a movement—or simply someone with noble qualities.

And are we not grown up enough now to not need public heroes? The mythology of heroism was originally spun as a form of both inspiration and, frankly, propaganda. And it is exploited as exactly the latter today. What if a hero is a friend who helps you get a job? Or, a hero is a mother who raises you or a father who puts you through






college. A hero takes real risks to save other people, literally and figuratively. A hero is someone who strives day in and day out to do something meaningful—without an ounce of public recognition.

What if a real hero is someone who never becomes famous for his or her deeds at all? Then we would know that those who do are not heroic at all, just ambitious to the point of exploitative. As for Lance Armstrong, he was obviously a very determined athlete and a highly-compensated entertainer—and that’s all professional athletes are. But no. He was never a hero. And neither is the next Lance Armstrong who is already out there, waiting in the wings.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 86° ▼ 76° | ▲ 86° ▼ 76° | ▲ 86° ▼ 76° | ▲ 86° ▼ 76° | ▲ 86° ▼ 76° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 83 ▼ 76 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲ 85 ▼ 77 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲ 88 ▼ 78 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲ 85 ▼ 79 |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 85 ▼ 80 |
| Kosrae | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 85 ▼ 80 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲ 86 ▼ 80 |

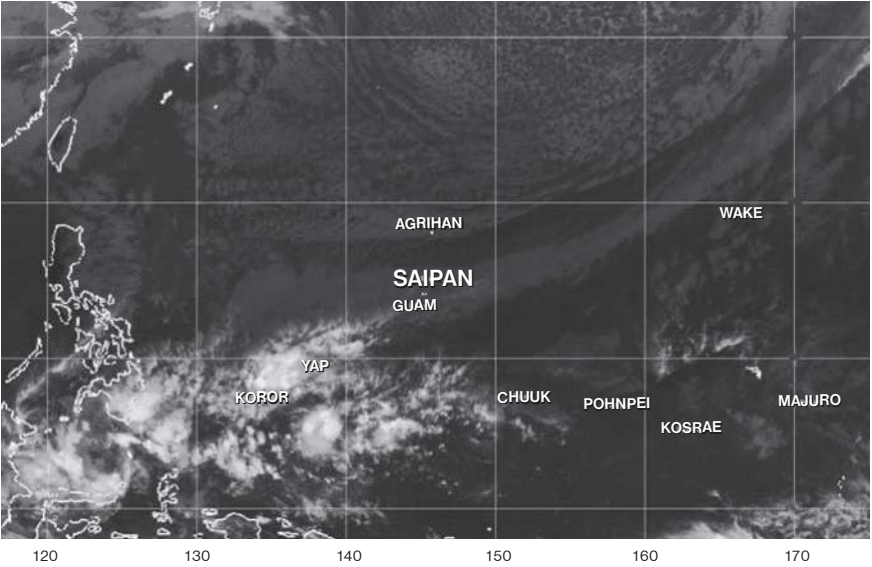
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Cloudy | ▲ 74 ▼ 68 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲ 39 ▼ 19 |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲ 70 ▼ 64 |
| Honolulu | Sunny | ▲ 79 ▼ 68 |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 38 ▼ 32 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲ 76 ▼ 50 |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 85 ▼ 75 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 76 ▼ 58 |
| Miami | Cloudy | ▲ 74 ▼ 58 |
| New York | Windy | ▲ 25 ▼ 15 |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 48 ▼ 39 |
| Paris | Cloudy | ▲ 34 ▼ 29 |
| Pusan | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 49 ▼ 36 |
| Rome | Showers | ▲ 52 ▼ 41 |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 45 ▼ 41 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 64 ▼ 49 |
| Seoul | Cloudy | ▲ 36 ▼ 28 |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 47 ▼ 37 |
| Washington, DC | Windy | ▲ 24 ▼ 20 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|--|
| 5:51 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.5 Feet | |
| 1:11 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet | |
| 3:30 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.7 Feet | |
| 11:19 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.0 Feet | |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N170E to 14N150E then continues as a shear line to 6N130E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northeast of this boundary northeast of 11N141E. This area includes the Marianas. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther southwest over Yap along and up to 170 miles northwest of the shear line from 11N141E to 7N134E. A near equatorial trough runs east-southeastward from 2N130E to end near EQ145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present south of Koror and Yap between 7N and 2N from 130E to 146E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers over the Marshall Islands between 11N and 6N from 168E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:47 AM | 6:10 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Thursday | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Friday | 6:47 AM | 6:12 PM |
| Saturday | 6:47 AM | 6:12 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 2:09 PM | 2:31 AM |
| Wednesday | 2:56 PM | 3:20 AM |
| Thursday | 3:45 PM | 4:08 AM |
| Friday | 4:35 PM | 4:56 AM |
| Saturday | 5:26 PM | 5:41 AM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

| DEPARTURES | ARRIVALS |
|--|--|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily |
| SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily | OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3 | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7 | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:00am 1, 5 | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:55am+1 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6 | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 6:30am 12:30pm 5 | VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | | | | |
| FRE 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | | | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | Tinian-Saipan | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily | | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | | | | |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Coca-Cola gives away thousands of dollars in high-tech gadgets

Coca-Cola spreads happiness beyond the holidays to the "Tech the Halls with Loads of Gadgets" promotion winners who brought home high-tech electronic devices worth thousands of dollars.

The grand prize winner, Joseph Garcia, sales manager, Pacific Buy & Sell, collected so many entry forms with his almost daily purchase of Coca-Cola but he almost did not get to join the promo at all.

The Gualo Rai resident considers himself a Coca-Cola fanatic. "I buy 12 packs almost every day. Although I go to different stores, I always go for the same brand, Coca-Cola," Garcia said.

Garcia collected multiple entry forms, but he held on to them. When he tried to submit his entries, he was told that the entry box had already been collected.

On his next purchase, he received one entry form and that was his only entry that made it to the lottery.

The one entry won for Garcia a netizen worthy package: a tablet computer, a handheld game system, an e-reader, \$500 in shopping certificates, and—from Docomo Pacific—a Samsung Infuse android phone with a SIM Kit plus a \$50 load.

Garcia, a techie, plans on keeping the e-reader for himself and sending the rest of his prizes to his family in the Philippines. "I will send the handheld game system to my daughter and the other electronics will go to my wife," Garcia said.

Baby grand prize winner Hai Quan Li has yet to claim the prize package comprising a netbook, a game console, and \$200 shopping certificate.

The two first prize winners, Roland Johnson and Maria Ana Tudela, each won a game console and a handheld game system.

Johnson, who also won two sets of Hollywood Theaters gift cards and Mobil Smiles Certificates, has the most number of entries drawn. He credits his wife for his good fortune.



Gerry Hemley handed over to Joseph Garcia a netizen worthy prize package that includes a tablet computer, a handheld game system, an e-reader, \$500 in shopping certificates, and an android phone. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



James Nelson, general manager of Docomo Pacific, awarded grand prize winner Joseph Garcia a Samsung Infuse with a SIM Kit plus \$50 load to complete his winnings. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

"My wife keeps purchasing Coca-Cola 12 packs," Johnson said.

Tudela, the erstwhile director of the Upward Bound Program at Northern Marianas College, and mother of three sons ages 18, 15 and 11, and one 3-year-old daughter, said that she accumulated many entry forms, as she bought four 12-can fridge packs of Coca-Cola products every weekend.

"We bought a lot because of the construction at home and the farm. On weekends, we had barbecue and 12 packs," Tudela said.

Lance, her youngest son, has claimed the game console for himself. "He thinks he won it. He enjoys games that his body controls," Tudela said.

She said that she would keep the handheld for herself since her daughter is still too young to play. "I'll hold on to the handheld. I'm planning on purchasing games such as puzzles to invigorate the mind," Tudela said.

In addition to giving away electronic devices, Coca-Cola also raffled off 25 major prizes including five gift certificates



Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. presents the prizes to the winners of gift certificates to Saipan World Resort, Hollywood Theaters gift cards, and Mobil Smiles Letters.

to Saipan World Resort and 20 combined Hollywood Theaters Gift Cards each with a \$50 load that can be used for movie tickets or food and beverage, and Mobil Smiles Letters for \$52 gas.

The winners of the Saipan World Resort gift certificates are Ana Flores of San Vicente;

Tito M. Batino, China Town; Ernest O. Romolor, Garapan; Takakazu Tanzawa, Navy Hill; and Remy Amor.

Hollywood Theaters Gift Cards and Mobil Smiles Letters winners include Ray Pangelinan, Marcy Capulor, Jocelyn Tudela, Ana S. Castro, Matty Alicante Orcasitas, Roland Johnson, Dr. Fred Gogar, Steven Metayer, Santos Kevin,

Maria Arlene Q. Romaguera, Joseph D. Sablan, Jr., Regina J. Caintoy, Rosemarie C. Schweiger, Julieta Sujulga, Ramona N.C. Peter, Paul Kanrow, Noel Baitlon, Margaret R. Tenorio, and Henry P. Kaipat.

Marcos W. Fong, CEO, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. says Coca-Cola and the holidays are synonymous with bringing good cheer. "It's

been a Coca-Cola tradition to spread happiness and goodwill during the holidays and throughout the year. Holding a promotion to give away valuable prizes around the holidays is one of the ways we keep the Coca-Cola credo of 'Open Happiness.' This is also Coca-Cola's way of saying 'thank you' to our consumers for 126 years of happiness," Fong said. **(PR)**

Kilili public investiture on Jan. 30

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) will have another ceremonial swearing-in for his third term in office, this time on Saipan on Jan. 30. Sablan has also been able to reclaim a seat on the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protection.



Sablan

The public investiture ceremony will be held at the Marianas High School gymnasium at 9am on Wednesday next week. This comes weeks after

the 113th U.S. House of Representatives held its inaugural session and individual ceremonial swearing in on Jan. 3 in Washington, D.C.

Sablan is the first and so far only CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress since the signing of a law in 2008 that also placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

Meanwhile, the delegate said the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education for the Northern Mariana Islands in which he is a returning

member is responsible for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which is providing \$8.4 million to the Public School System this year and which is overdue for reauthorization.

"If the Republican majority decides to tackle the needed rewrite, I will be working to improve the funding situation for our Northern Marianas schools. I am also returning to the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over minimum wage and other labor-related policy important to the Northern Mariana Islands," he said. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**



First prize winners Roland Johnson (left) and Maria Ana Tudela together with her son, Lance Tudela, received their game console and hand handheld game system from Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Business

Flu season fuels debate over paid sick time laws

NEW YORK (AP)—Sniffling, groggy and afraid she had caught the flu, Diana Zavala dragged herself in to work anyway for a day she felt she couldn't afford to miss. A school speech therapist who works as an independent contractor, she doesn't have paid sick days. So the mother of two reported to work and hoped for the best—and was aching, shivering and coughing by the end of the day. She stayed home the next day, then loaded up on medicine and returned to work.

"It's a balancing act" between physical health and financial well-being, she said.

An unusually early and vigorous flu season is drawing attention to a cause that has scored victories but also hit roadblocks in recent years: mandatory paid sick leave for a third of civilian workers—more than 40 million people—who don't have it.

Supporters and opponents are particularly watching New York City, where lawmakers are weighing a sick leave proposal amid a competitive mayoral race.

Pointing to a flu outbreak that the governor has called a public health emergency, dozens of doctors, nurses, lawmakers and activists—some in surgical masks—rallied Friday on the City Hall steps to call for pas-

The flu's reach

The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza is 8.2 percent, above the epidemic threshold of 7.2 percent.

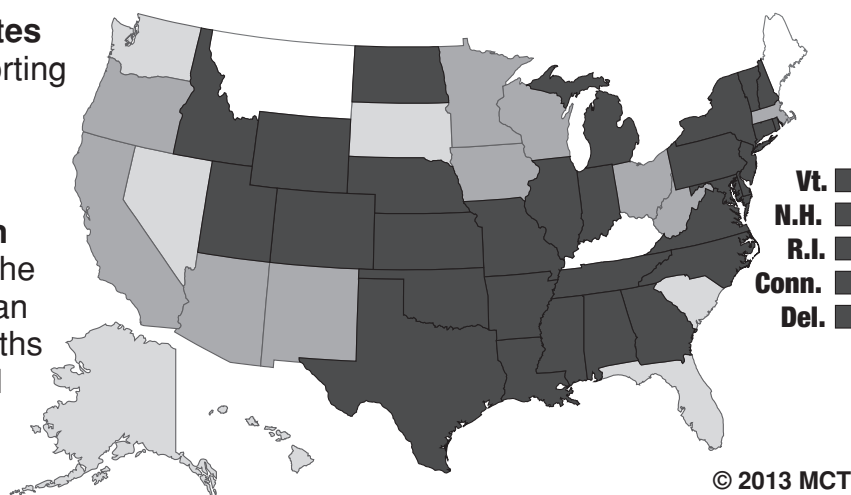
By the numbers

• 30 states are reporting high flu activity

• 29 children among the more than 100 deaths reported

Flu activity level Week ending Jan. 12

■ High ■ Moderate ■ Low ■ Minimal



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Source: U.S. Centers for Disease and Control
Graphic: Melina Yingling

NOTE: CDC only tracks pediatric deaths from influenza; numbers include adults as reported by individual states

sage of the measure, which has awaited a City Council vote for nearly three years. Two likely mayoral contenders have also pressed the point.

The flu spike is making people more aware of the argument for sick pay, said Ellen Bravo, execu-

tive director of Family Values at Work, which promotes paid sick time initiatives around the country. "There's people who say, 'OK, I get it—you don't want your server coughing on your food,'" she said.

Advocates have cast paid sick

time as both a workforce issue akin to parental leave and "living wage" laws, and a public health priority.

But to some business owners, paid sick leave is an impractical and unfair burden for small operations. Critics also say the

timing is bad, given the choppy economy and the hardships inflicted by Superstorm Sandy. Michael Sinensky, an owner of seven bars and restaurants around the city, was against the sick time proposal before Sandy. And after the storm shut down four of his restaurants for days or weeks, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars that his insurers have yet to pay, "we're in survival mode."

"We're at the point, right now, where we cannot afford additional social initiatives," said Sinensky, whose roughly 500 employees switch shifts if they can't work, an arrangement that some restaurateurs say benefits workers because paid sick time wouldn't include tips.

Employees without sick days are more likely to go to work with a contagious illness, send an ill child to school or day care and use hospital emergency rooms for care, according to a 2010 survey by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center. A 2011 study in the American Journal of Public Health estimated that a lack of sick time helped spread 5 million cases of flu-like illness during the 2009 swine flu outbreak.

To be sure, many employees entitled to sick time go to work

ill anyway, out of dedication or at least a desire to project it. But the work-through-it ethic is shifting somewhat amid growing awareness about spreading sickness.

"Right now, where companies' incentives lie is butting right up against this concern over people coming into the workplace, infecting others and bringing productivity of a whole company down," said John A. Challenger, CEO of employer consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Paid sick day requirements are often popular in polls, but only four places have them: San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and the state of Connecticut. The specific provisions vary.

Milwaukee voters approved a sick time requirement in 2008, but the state Legislature passed a law blocking it. Philadelphia's mayor vetoed a sick leave measure in 2011; lawmakers have since instituted a sick time requirement for businesses with city contracts. Voters rejected a paid sick day measure in Denver in 2011.

In New York, City Councilwoman Gale Brewer's proposal would require up to five paid sick days a year at businesses with at least five employees. It wouldn't include independent contractors, such as Zavala, who supports the idea nonetheless.

Growth slows, markets feeling good ahead of Davos

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The world's financial and political elite will head this week to the Alps for 2013's gathering of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, with the global economy far less plagued by fear than it was last year.

Much-feared worldwide panics from a collapse of the euro currency union have been avoided. China appears likely to remain an engine of global growth. Stocks are off to a running start in the New Year. "There's a sense of relief that the worst didn't happen ... and I think that relief is probably justified," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.

Davos is the venue for the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of more than 2,000 decision-makers from

nearly 100 countries and hundreds of companies that starts Wednesday. The WEF has taken "Resilient Dynamism" as the theme for this year's event.

Yet the global economy is expected to remain sluggish in 2013, with two of the biggest economies—the euro alliance and Japan—in recession. There's also a risk that the United States, the world's largest economy, may slash government spending—a step that could dampen the world economy. Few think global economic growth will even match last year's tepid 3.3 percent.

Despite that, as fear of a catastrophe has eased, optimism appears to have taken hold among investors. The world's financial markets have surged. Both the U.S. Standard & Poor's 500 and Europe's

STOXX 600 have risen 13.5 percent in the past 12 months.

Fueling much of the improvement has been a flood of monetary expansion from the world's central banks. The U.S. Federal Reserve, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan and the Swiss National Bank have purchased financial assets such as bonds with newly created money. The central banks have also slashed short-term interest rates to record lows—to near zero in the case of the Fed. The ECB has lent more than (EURO)1 trillion to banks at low rates.

The European Central Bank gave the eurozone its biggest boost when it offered last fall to buy unlimited debt of heavily indebted countries such as Spain and Italy. That action lowered their borrowing costs

and eased fears that those governments would default.

Fears that the group of 17 European countries that use the euro would break up under the weight of its debt crisis faded throughout 2012. One factor bolstering the eurozone was the deal struck between Europe and the International Monetary Fund to stop Greece from being forced to default on its debts and abandon the euro.

As interest rates have dropped, investors have shifted money into stocks, real estate and other assets, driving up their prices. One of the biggest market jumps in 2012 came in Greece's own Athens stock exchange, where stocks catapulted 33 percent. Even the yields on bonds sold by U.S. companies with subpar credit ratings—so-called junk bonds—have fallen.

NTSB: Plane battery that burned not overcharged

WASHINGTON (AP)—The battery that caught fire in a Japan Airlines Boeing 787 in Boston earlier this month was not overcharged, but government investigators said there could still be problems with wiring or other charging components.

An examination of the flight data recorder indicated that the battery didn't exceed its designed voltage of 32 volts, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a statement.

NTSB investigators are continuing to look at the battery system. They plan to meet Tuesday with officials from Securoplane Technologies Inc., manufacturer of the charger for the 787s lithium ion batteries, at the company's headquarters in Tucson, Ariz., said Kelly Nantel, a spokeswoman for the board.

"Potentially there could be some other charging issue," Nantel said. "We're not prepared to say there was no charging issue."

Even though it appears the voltage limit wasn't exceeded in the case of the Japan Airlines 787 battery that caught fire on Jan. 7 in Boston, it's possible that the battery failures in that plane and in an All Nippon Airways plane

that made an emergency landing in Japan last week may be due to a charging problem, according to John Goglia, a former NTSB board member and aviation safety expert.

Too much current flowing too fast into a battery can overwhelm the battery, causing it to short-circuit and overheat even if the battery's voltage remains within its design limit, he said.

"The battery is like a big sponge," Goglia said. "You can feed it with an eye dropper or you can feed it with a garden hose. If allowed, it will soak up everything it can from the garden hose until it destroys itself."

There are so many redundancies and safeguards in aviation that when an accident or mishap occurs, it almost always is the result of a chain of events rather than a single failure, he said.

The Japan Airlines plane caught fire Jan. 7 while it was sitting on the tarmac at Boston's Logan Airport. In a separate incident on Jan. 16, an ANA flight made an emergency landing in western Japan after a cockpit message warned of battery problems and a burning smell was detected in the cockpit and cabin.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Indicted Megaupload founder opens new sharing site

SYDNEY (AP)—Indicted Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom launched a new file-sharing website that promises users greater privacy and defies the U.S. prosecutors who accuse him of facilitating massive online piracy. The colorful entrepreneur unveiled the "Mega" site ahead of a lavish gala and news conference at his New Zealand mansion on Sunday night, the anniversary of his arrest on racketeering

charges related to his now-shuttered Megaupload file-sharing site. The site Dotcom started in 2005 was one of the most popular sites on the Web until U.S. prosecutors shut it down and accused him and several company officials of facilitating millions of illegal downloads. In Dotcom's typical grandiose style, the launch party featured a tongue-in-cheek re-enactment of the dramatic raid on his home a year earlier, when New Zealand police swooped down in helicopters onto the mansion grounds

and nabbed him in a safe room where he was hiding.

Hostess union hires investment bank

NEW YORK (AP)—The pension fund for some of Hostess Brands' workers has hired an investment bank to represent workers and pensioners as the Twinkie maker sells off its brands. In a statement posted Sunday on its website, the bakers' union says the New York firm Gordian Group LLC will represent the fund. Gordian

President Peter Kaufman says his company will try to ensure potential buyers hire former Hostess workers and honor the company's pension obligations. The Bakery and Confectionery Union and Industry International Pension Fund pays out \$42 million in benefits per month to 52,000 pensioners. Hostess in November filed bankruptcy and moved to liquidate after it failed to reach a contract agreement with the union, which represented about one-third of its 18,000 workers.

Nation

Swearing age-old oath, Obama steps into 2nd term

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama was sworn in for four more years Sunday in a simple ceremony at the White House, embarking on a second-term quest to restore a still-shaky economy and combat terrorists overseas while swearing an age-old oath to “preserve, protect and defend” the Constitution.

“I did it,” a smiling president said to his daughter Sasha seconds after following Chief Justice John Roberts in reciting the oath of office. First lady Michelle Obama and the couple’s other daughter, Malia, were among relatives who bore witness.

The quiet moments were prelude to Monday’s public inaugural events when Obama and Vice President Joe Biden will be sworn in on the steps of the U.S. Capitol before a crowd expected to reach into the hundreds of thousands and a television audience counted in the millions.

The trappings were in place—the flag-draped stands ready outside the Capitol and the tables set inside for a traditional lunch with lawmakers. Across town, a specially made reviewing stand rested outside the White House gates for the president and guests to watch the traditional parade down Pennsylvania Avenue.

A crowd of perhaps 800,000 was forecast, less than the million-plus that thronged to the nation’s capital four years ago to witness the inauguration

of the first black president in American history.

The weather forecast was encouraging, to a point. High temperatures were predicted for the lower 40s during the day, with scattered snow showers during the evening, when two inaugural balls closed out the official proceedings.

The 44th chief executive is only the 17th to win re-election, and his second-term goals are ambitious for a country where sharp political differences have produced gridlocked government in recent years.

Restoration of the economy to full strength and pressing the worldwide campaign against terrorists sit atop the agenda. He also wants to reduce federal deficits and win immigration and gun control legislation from Congress, where Republicans control the House.

If he needed a reminder of the challenges he faces, he got one from half-way around the globe. An Algerian security official disclosed the discovery of 25 additional bodies at a gas plant where radical Islamists last week took dozens of foreign workers hostage.

In Washington, tourists strolled leisurely on an unseasonably warm day.

“I’m very proud of him and what he’s trying to do for immigration, women’s rights, what they call ‘Obamacare,’ and concerns for the middle class,” said Patricia Merritt, a retired educator



President Barack Obama is officially sworn-in by Chief Justice John Roberts, not pictured, in the Blue Room of the White House during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, Sunday Jan. 20, 2013, as first lady Michelle Obama, holds the Robinson Family Bible. AP

from San Antonio, in town with her daughter and granddaughter to see the inauguration and parade as well as historic sites. “I think he’s more disrespected than any other president,” she added, referring to his critics.

Sean Payton, an operations analyst from Highland Ranch, Colo., said he hoped to hear “a nice eloquent speech that makes people feel good about being an American.”

Republicans lent a touch of

bipartisanship to the weekend.

“We always want any president to succeed, to do well, that means America does well and Americans do well,” Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming said on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

Obama took the oath in the White House Blue Room where portraits of Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and John Tyler grace the walls. He placed a hand on a Bible held by his wife. His daughters stood nearby.

The nation’s political divisions seemed scarcely to intrude as Obama, a Democrat, shook hands with Roberts, a Republican appointee, in a rite that renews American democracy every four years. Unlike four years ago, when Roberts stumbled verbally, the chief justice recited the oath without error.

Before the swearing-in, the president listened from a second-row pew at the 175-year-old Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church as the Rev. Jonathan V. Newman asked God’s blessing for the him and his family. “But also prepare him for battle ... because sometimes enemies insist on doing it the hard way,” he said.

Like Obama, Biden began his day early. He attended Catholic Mass at his official residence at the U.S. Naval Observatory a few miles from the White House. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic justice and an Obama appointee, administered the oath of office.

Biden then joined Obama at the cemetery, where the two men placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and observed a moment of silence as a bugler sounded “Taps.”

2nd Mass. chemist accused of evidence tampering

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (AP)—A chemist at a state crime lab tampered with drug evidence, authorities said Sunday in Massachusetts, where a chemist at another lab was accused last year of faking test results in a scandal that threw thousands of criminal cases into question.

Sonja Farak, who works at a lab in Amherst, in western Massachusetts, removed from a case file a substance that tested positive for cocaine and replaced it with one that didn’t, state At-

torney General Martha Coakley said. Evidence suggests Farak stole drugs that had already been tested, prosecutors said.

Farak, of Northampton, was arrested Saturday. She also is charged with possession of heroin and cocaine.

The lab contacted state police on Friday to report a discrepancy in inventory, Coakley said at a Boston news conference. Officials do not believe Farak’s tampering will undermine evidence, she said.

“On its face, the allegations against this chemist do not implicate the reliability of testing done or fairness to defendants,” she said.

Last month, the other chemist, Annie Dookhan, was indicted on 27 charges in a case that threatens to unravel thousands of drug convictions. Dookhan, of Franklin, resigned in March during an internal investigation by the state Department of Public Health. She has pleaded not guilty.

State police said they closed

the Boston lab where she worked in August after taking over its operation and discovering the extent of her misconduct.

The accusations against Farak, unlike those against Dookhan, don’t involve falsification of tests or dry labbing, visually identifying samples instead of performing required chemical testing, the attorney general said.

Farak does not have a listed phone number, and it was unclear whether she had a lawyer.

The Amherst lab has been closed temporarily, and chemists will be transferred to Sudbury, state police said.

The state’s district attorneys said they were undertaking internal case reviews to determine which, if any, of their prosecutions involved Farak. The Massachusetts District Attorneys Association said Sunday prosecutors remain committed to ensuring the rights of defendants are respected and will remain proactive in identifying possibly

compromised cases and notifying defense attorneys.

The association said the fallout from the Dookhan case includes experienced prosecutors being taken out of rotation to serve on Department of Public Health task forces. It urged lawmakers to give prosecutors the resources they need to ensure “proper functioning” of the state’s criminal justice system.

Farak is due to be arraigned Tuesday in Eastern Hampshire District Court in Belchertown.



ACROSS THE NATION

Madoff brother attends granddaughter’s bat mitzvah

NEW YORK (AP)—The prison-bound brother of Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff (MAY’-dawf) has attended his granddaughter’s bat mitzvah in New York. Peter Madoff was sentenced in December to 10 years in prison for his role in the massive Ponzi scheme. The judge delayed his lockup date so he could attend the Jewish ceremony. The 67-year-old pleaded guilty in June to charges that he created false

documents while he was chief compliance officer at his brother’s firm.

Fire chief: Chaplain is 1 of 5 NM shooting victims

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A 15-year-old boy remained in custody Sunday night as detectives tried to piece together what led to the shooting of five people, including three young children, who were found dead in a New Mexico home. The teenager was arrested on murder and other charges in connec-

tion with the shootings, which happened Saturday night at the home in a rural area southwest of downtown Albuquerque, said Lt. Sid Covington, a Bernalillo County sheriff’s spokesman. Detectives did not immediately release the victims’ names, but word of the shootings traveled quickly through the law enforcement community, and officials began offering their condolences for Greg Griego, a spiritual leader known for his work with firefighters and the 13 years he spent as a volunteer chaplain at the county jail.

Digital age prompting closure of base theaters

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AP)—Stacey Darling loves watching family movies at the Ellsworth Air Force Base theater in South Dakota because it’s so much more affordable than taking her three children to the multiplex in nearby Rapid City.

Darling, whose husband is an airman, has been catching second-run films on base for about 2 1/2 years, and was there Saturday for the theater’s last showing—a screening of the animated movie “Hotel Transylvania.” The movie theater is among 60 around the globe run by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service that is

screening its last picture show amid the industry’s conversion to digital projection.

“We always come out for the cartoons,” said Darling, of Grand Forks, N.D. “We like the family movies.”

Darling said she wishes she could go to the theater even more now that her husband, Senior Master Sgt. David Darling, has deployed to southwest Asia.

It’s just not cost effective for the exchange service to invest the \$120,000 per theater needed to convert from 35 millimeter film to the new format at the theaters that are being closed, said spokesman Judd Anstey. Sixty

theaters will make the upgrade.

“At locations where customer attendance is decreased due to a preference for off-installation entertainment venues, a determination has been made that continued operation is no longer a viable option,” Anstey said.

The exchange service runs department-store-style retail outlets, fast-food restaurants, barbers and similar services on military facilities.

Saturday’s “Hotel Transylvania” screening at Ellsworth Air Force Base drew about 250 people, thanks in part to the theater forgoing the admission price for its farewell flick.

Asia

India political heir Rahul Gandhi condemns elitism

JAIPUR, India (AP)—Rahul Gandhi, the heir to India's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, said he would work to transform the country by decentralizing power after he was elevated to the governing Congress party's No. 2 post.

His career embodies Congress' reliance on the Gandhi family name, but the man widely expected to be the party's candidate for prime minister in next year's elections condemned elitism as "the tragedy of India" and vowed to work to expand access to power for ordinary people. "For me, the Congress party is my life. The people of India are my life and I will fight for them," Gandhi, a 42-year-old lawmaker, said in his acceptance speech Sunday in the western Indian city of Jaipur, a day after he was appointed the party vice president, a position behind his mother Sonia Gandhi, who is the Congress party president.

Reflecting on his eight years while working for the party organization, Rahul Gandhi said

India's governmental system was struck in the past and the answer lay in completely transforming it.

"A handful of people control the entire political space" he said to cheering party workers

"It doesn't matter how much wisdom you have. If you don't



Gandhi

have position, you have nothing. That's the tragedy of India," he said. Rahul Gandhi also said

many Indian youths are angry because they have been excluded from the political class. "We only empower people at the top of the system. We don't believe in empowering all the way to the bottom," he said.

He said change could be possible only if those in power started respecting and empowering people for their knowledge and skills.

"All the public systems—administration, justice, education and political—are designed to keep people with knowledge out," he said.

Such a system promotes mediocrity, he added.

However, opposition parties are already seizing on the fast political rise of Rahul Gandhi—the son, grandson and great-grandson of Indian prime ministers—to brand Congress as nepotistic and elitist.

Arun Jaitley, a leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, said Rahul Gandhi's elevation in the Congress party was a move to convert the world's largest democracy into a dynastic nation. Jaitley said the leader of his party was decided on the basis of ability, not lineage.

In 2004, Manmohan Singh, a technocrat, was chosen to fill the prime minister's seat in 2004 by Sonia Gandhi, the Congress leader and widow of assassinated Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

UN: Prisoners still tortured in Afghan custody

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan authorities are still torturing prisoners, such as hanging them by their wrists and beating them with cables, the United Nations said, a year after it first documented the abuse and won government promises of detention reform.

The latest report shows little progress in curbing abuse in Afghan prisons despite efforts by the U.N. and international military forces in Afghanistan. The report released Sunday also cites instances where Afghan authorities have tried to hide mistreatment from U.N. monitors.

The slow progress on prison reform has prompted NATO forces to once again stop many transfers of detainees to Afghan authorities out of concern that they would be tortured.

In multiple detention centers, Afghan authorities leave detainees hanging from the ceiling by their wrists, beat them with cables and wooden sticks, administer electric shocks, twist their genitals and threaten to shove bottles up their anuses or to kill them, the report said.

In a letter responding to the latest report, the Afghan government said that its internal monitoring committee found that "the allegations of torture of detainees were untrue and thus disproved." The Afghan government said that it would not completely rule out the possibility of torture at its detention facilities, but that it was nowhere near the levels described in the report and that it was checking on reports of abuse.

The findings, however, highlight the type of human rights abuses that many activists worry could become more prevalent in Afghanistan as in-

Insurgents attack Afghan police facility for hours

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban insurgents wearing suicide vests attacked the Kabul traffic police headquarters before dawn Monday, police said, and eyewitnesses heard numerous explosions while a gun battle was still raging nearly four hours later.

Police officer Mirza Mohammad said at least one insurgent blew himself up at the entrance to the compound and a number of others wearing suicide vests entered the building. Another police officer said at least three attackers entered the building and two were killed. The officer, who could not be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said a gun battle was taking place inside the three-story building.

"There are still there are two or three suicide bombers inside the traffic department compound. They are still fighting," said Mohammad Zahir, the chief of the Kabul police investigation unit. He did not provide any information on casualties. Explosions could be heard inside the building.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message

to The Associated Press. Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said the assault began with suicide car bombing near the building. Two insurgents, he said, were then shot and killed by Afghan forces.

"Still there may be one or two inside the building, but we are not sure," he said, adding that four Afghan police commandos were wounded. Sediqi said there were no civilian casualties in the attack.

The area has been surrounded by Afghan security forces, he said, and police commandos are conducting the operation. "This shows the ability of the Afghan forces, that they are leading the operation. ... There are no foreign forces involved," Sediqi said.

A unit of NATO special forces that trains and mentors Afghan police was at the scene but not taking part in the operation.

Gul Rahman, who owns a nearby shop, said he heard at least two explosions when the attack started just before dawn. An Associated Press reporter at the scene said a number of big explosions were heard in and around the building along with heavy gunfire.

with it. They were beating me for some time like one hour and were frequently telling me that, 'You are with Taliban and this is what you deserve.'"

More than half of the 635 detainees interviewed had been tortured, according to the report titled Treatment of Conflict-Related Detainees in Afghan Custody: One Year On. That is about the same ratio the U.N. found in its first report in 2011.

Belmoktar, an Algerian in his 40s known in Pentagon circles as "MBM," just split off from al-Qaida in the Is-

lamic Maghreb, or AQIM, to start his own franchise.

Over the past decade, AQIM has kidnapped dozens of foreigners, including diplomats, aid workers, field doctors and tourists. Although Belmoktar's hostages are forced to endure months of privation and live with the constant threat of execution, those who have dealt directly with him say his cell has never executed a captive, according to hostage negotiators, a courier sent to collect proof-of-life videos, senior diplomats and security experts interviewed for this article.

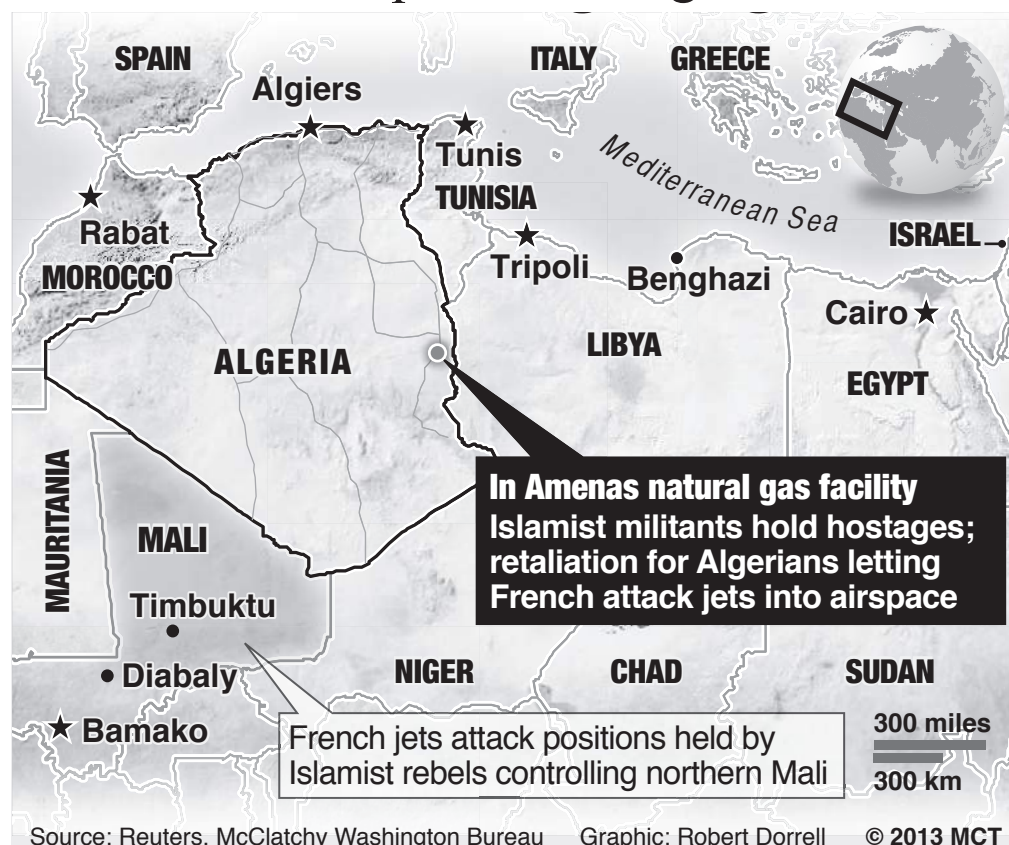
The notable exception was the 2011 kidnapping of two French nationals from a bar in the capital of Niger, both of whom were killed when the French military tried to

rescue them. It's unclear if the two died from friendly fire, or were executed by their captors in a situation that closely mirrors the chain of events in Algeria, where combat helicopters strafed the compound in an effort to liberate the hostages, killing both kidnappers and victims.

Belmoktar prefers to trade his hostages for money, experts have said, and global intelligence unit Stratfor says he can get an estimated \$3 million per European captive. The money allowed him to build one of the best-financed cells of al-Qaida. It may explain how he was able to strike out on his own six weeks ago to create "The Masked Brigade," whose inaugural attack was launched inside Algeria.

World

Death toll climbs past 80 in siege in the Sahara



ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—The death toll from the terrorist siege at a natural gas plant in the Sahara climbed past 80 on Sunday as Algerian forces searching the refinery for explosives found dozens more bodies, many so badly disfigured it was unclear whether they were hostages or militants, a security official said.

Algerian special forces stormed the plant on Saturday to end the four-day siege, moving in to thwart what government officials said was a plot by the Islamic extremists to blow up the complex and kill all their captives with mines sown throughout the site.

In a statement, the Masked Brigade, the group that claimed to have masterminded the takeover, warned of more such attacks against any country backing France's military intervention in neighboring Mali,

where the French are trying to stop an advance by Islamic extremists.

"We stress to our Muslim brothers the necessity to stay away from all the Western companies and complexes for their own safety, and especially the French ones," the statement said.

Algeria said after Saturday's assault by government forces that at least 32 extremists and 23 hostages were killed. On Sunday, Algerian bomb squads sent in to blow up or defuse the explosives found 25 more bodies, said the security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

"These bodies are difficult to identify. They could be the bodies of foreign hostages or Algerians or terrorists," the official said.

In addition, a wounded Ro-

manian who had been evacuated died, raising the overall death toll to at least 81.

"Now, of course, people will ask questions about the Algerian response to these events, but I would just say that the responsibility for these deaths lies squarely with the terrorists who launched a vicious and cowardly attack," British Prime Minister David Cameron said. Three Britons were killed and another three were feared dead.

The dead hostages were also known to include at least one American as well as Filipino and French workers. Nearly two dozen foreigners by some estimates were unaccounted for.

It was unclear whether anyone was rescued in the final assault on the complex, which is run by the Algerian state oil company along with BP and Norway's Statoil.

Algeria terror leader preferred money to death

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Moktar Belmoktar is known abroad as the man who orchestrated the abduction of scores of foreigners last week at a BP-operated plant in the remote, eastern corner of Algeria, in a raid that led to many of their deaths.

In the Sahara at least up until this week he was, ironically, known as the more pragmatic and less brutal of the commanders of an increasingly successful offshoot of al-Qaida. The question now is has he evolved into an international terrorist every bit as violent as his rivals, or did the Algeria operation go very differently than he intended?

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lamic Maghreb, or AQIM, to start his own franchise.

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Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair, fired from his command in Afghanistan last May and now facing a court-martial on charges of sodomy, adultery and pornography and more, is just one in a long line of commanders whose careers were ended because of possible sexual misconduct.

Sex has proved to be the downfall of presidential candidates, members of Congress, governors and other notables. It's also among the chief reasons that senior military officers are fired.

At least 30 percent of military commanders fired over the past eight years lost their jobs because of sexually related offenses, including harassment, adultery, and improper relationships, according to statistics compiled by The Associated Press.

The figures bear out growing concerns by Defense Department and military leaders over declining ethical values among U.S. forces, and they highlight the pervasiveness of a problem that came into sharp relief because of the resignation of one of the Army's most esteemed generals, David Petraeus, and the investigation of a second general, John Allen, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan.

The statistics from all four military services show that adulterous affairs are more than a four-star foible. From sexual assault and harassment to pornography, drugs and drinking, ethical lapses are an escalating problem for the military's leaders.

With all those offenses taken together, more than 4 in every 10 commanders at the rank of lieutenant colonel or above who were fired fell as a result of behavioral stumbles since 2005.

The recent series of highly publicized cases led to a review of ethics training across the military. It also prompted Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conclude that while training is adequate, it may need to start earlier in service members' careers and be reinforced more frequently.

Still, officials struggle to explain why the problem has grown and they acknowledge that solving it is difficult and will take time.

"I think we're on the path. I think the last two defense secretaries have made this a very high priority and have very much held people accountable. But we've got a ways to go," said Michele Flournoy, a former undersecretary of defense under President Barack Obama.

She said the military must enforce a "zero tolerance" policy and work to change the culture so service members are held



This undated file photo provided by the U.S. Army shows Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair. Sinclair, fired from his command in Afghanistan in May 2012 and now facing a court-martial on charges of sodomy, adultery and pornography and more, is just one in a long line of commanders whose careers were ended because of possible sexual misconduct.

accountable and made to understand that their careers will be over if they commit or tolerate such offenses.

"The policy is in place," she said. "I don't know that it's as evenly and fully enforced as intended."

For top officers, the numbers are startling.

Eighteen generals and admirals, from one star to four stars, were fired in recent years, and 10 of them lost their jobs because of sex-related offenses; two others were done in by alcohol-related problems.

The figures show that 255 commanders were fired since 2005, and that 78 of them were felled by sex-related offenses. A breakdown: 32 in the Army, 25 in the Navy, 11 in the Marine Corps and 10 in the Air Force.

Alcohol and drug-related problems cost the jobs of 27 commanders—11 in the Navy, eight in the Army, five in the Marine Corp(s) and three in the Air Force. "It's troublesome," said Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Navy's top spokesman. "Navy leadership is taking a look at why personal conduct seems to be a growing reason for why commanding officers are losing their commands. We're trying to get to the root causes. We don't really fully understand it."

He and other military leaders agree that poor leadership, bad judgment, and ethical lapses, rather than operational failures, are growing factors in the fir-

ings. But Kirby said it's not clear whether that has anything to do with the strains of the past 10 years at war or simply reflects deteriorating morals among the general population.

Defense Secretary Leon Pa-

netta ordered the ethics review in November. He said that "when lapses occur, they have the potential to erode public confidence in our leadership and in our system for the enforcement of our high ethical

standards. Worse, they can be detrimental to the execution of our mission to defend the American people."

Anu Bhagwati, executive director of the Service Women's Action Network, said there is

Sex is major reason military commanders are fired

more focus on this issue now than ever in the past, but that there really is no sufficient deterrent in place. She said a major problem is that military commanders are responsible for deciding what cases should move forward.

She said military lawyers, who are trained and have a greater appearance of impartiality, should make such an important legal decision.

The statistics gathered and analyzed by the AP represent a very conservative estimate of the problem. While the Army, Navy and Marine Corps provided details for all military commanders who were lieutenant colonels or commanders and above for 2005 until now, Air Force officials said they could only provide data for colonels and above from 2008 until today. Also, the figures reflect only officers who were in command positions. The numbers don't include what could be hundreds of officers fired from other jobs, such as administrative or other military posts. Military officials said they only collect data on officers in command who are fired.

The reasons for the firings are also murky. In some cases, no reason was listed; in other cases, it was vague—such as "ethics" or "leadership" or for fostering a bad command climate.

There also are varying degrees of publicity when such action is taken.

In Sinclair's case, the charges and impending court martial have received extensive coverage. The five pages of allegations, which involve his conduct with five women who were not his wife, include one count of forcible sodomy, two counts of

wrongful sexual conduct, six counts of inappropriate sexual relationships, and eight counts of violating regulations. He could receive life in prison if convicted.

But in many other cases, particularly of those below the rank of general, there is little public notice if the senior officer is in the Army or Air Force. The Navy, however, issues a public statement every time a commander is removed from a job.

The figures also highlight the Navy's reputation for being quick to justice. Although it is the second smallest of the four military services, the Navy has relieved the most commanders, 99, over the past eight years. By comparison, it was 83 for the Army, 41 for the Marines and 32 for the Air Force.

Dismissing a commander from a job does not mean that officer is forced out of the military. In some of the more serious cases, officers may be discharged or forced to resign. But in many other cases, service members may go on to another job for some time.

Still, a dismissal often signals the end of an officer's career, and with no chance for promotion, officers will often retire or leave the service.

The Army is the largest of the military services, reaching a peak of about 570,000 active duty soldiers at the height of the Iraq war. It is supposed to cut 80,000 troops by 2017. The Marine Corps is the smallest service, with about 202,000 at its peak during the wars and is set to slim down to about 182,000. The Navy has about 322,000 active duty forces and the Air Force has about 328,000.

The other reasons for dismissals by the services cover a broad range of offenses, from assault and drug and alcohol use to being a poor or abusive leader. There are also instances of fraud as well as a few cases where Navy officers commanding a ship have hit something, such as a buoy or another ship.

Four generals have lost their jobs in recent years as a result of public scandals. All were dismissed while Robert Gates was defense secretary:

■ Gen. Michael Moseley, the Air Force Chief of Staff, was dismissed in 2008 for failing to address several nuclear-related mishaps by the service.

■ Army Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley and Army Maj. Gen. George Weightman were dismissed because of the poor outpatient treatment of wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 2007.

■ Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal resigned after members of his staff made disparaging remarks about Obama's national security team, including Vice President Joe Biden. A Pentagon investigation later cleared him of wrongdoing.

Overdrive

Hot cars, green tech, dashboard apps

Since 1907, with the exception of a span from 1943 to 1952, the North American International Auto Show has been held in Detroit. The massive show occupies nearly 1 million sq. ft. (92,900 sq. m) of floor space and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors over the course of 12 days. The global automotive industry uses the showcase to display new models, technology and trends.

Sleek new designs unveiled

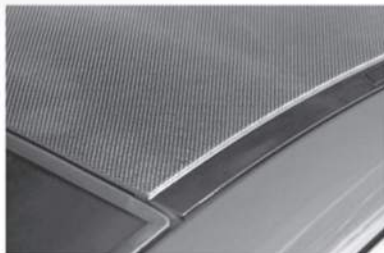
Toyota Corolla Furia New concept treatment ► for the popular sedan, with increased interior room and many new features

Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Seventh generation model comes with base engine delivering 450 horsepower, yet offers improved fuel economy ▼



Carbon fiber

Strong and ultra-light material used in racing for years and, until now, mostly in premium sports cars; useful for weight reduction



Variable transmissions

CVT (continuously variable transmissions) are appearing in brands such as Audi, Hyundai, Nissan and GM; deliver quicker acceleration, better fuel economy



Truck of the year

RAM 1500 Offers eight-speed transmission, start-stop engine technology, voice recognition with Uconnect system



Honda Urban Crossover SUV Honda executive John Mendel shows off futuristic SUV concept, smaller than the CR-V



NORTH AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL

AUTO
SHOW

Detroit, Mich.

- **Industry preview** Jan. 16-17
- **Charity preview** Jan. 18
- **Public show** Jan. 19-27
- **Venues** Joe Louis Arena, Cobo Center

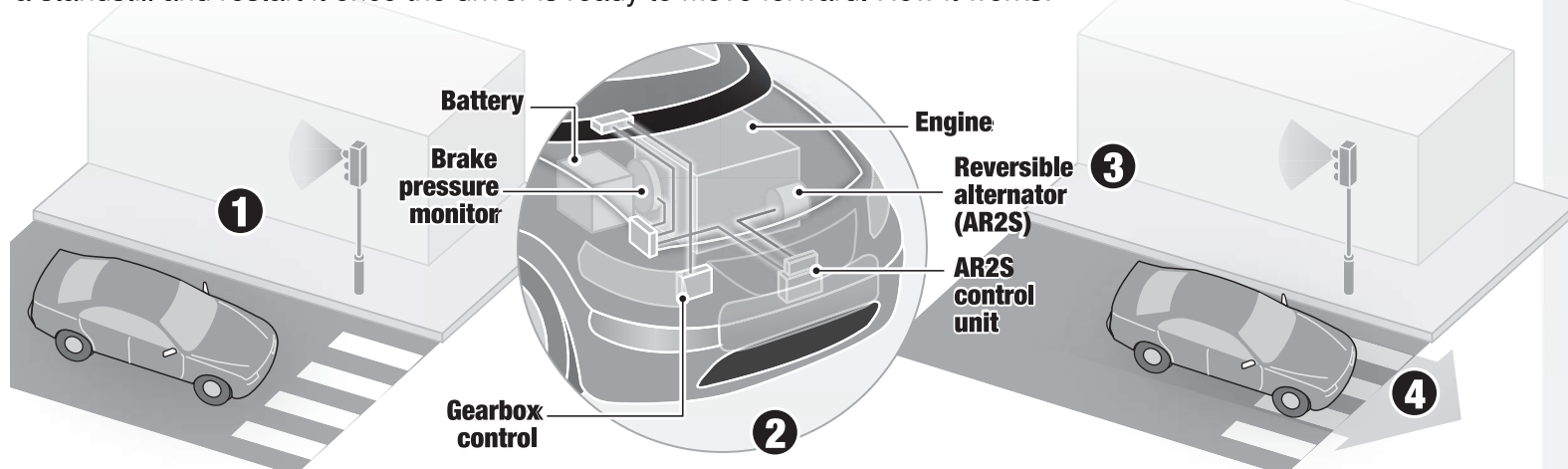
Car of the year

Cadillac's ATS takes aim at Audi, BMW, Lexus and Mercedes-Benz, giving the Detroit brand boost in the hotly competitive class of compact luxury designs

One way to save fuel

Start-stop system

A start-stop system has a simple goal: to turn the engine off when the car comes to a standstill and restart it once the driver is ready to move forward. How it works:



New in-dash gadgets

Radio and audio

- Ford is offering a system that plays Rhapsody subscription music; users can tune in specific city radio stations even if they're out of town



- Chrysler's Uconnect Access system is in 85 of its models; allows streaming of Pandora

Enhanced sensors

- Toyota LS uses GPS, stereo cameras, radar and Lidar sensors to track its surroundings
- Mercedes-Benz E Class offers wide angle 3D camera that scans road ahead

Life & Style

ASK A DESIGNER:

Create an organization hub at home

Getting a family organized requires more than a few well-chosen New Year's resolutions. Increasingly, homeowners are carving out a physical space—anything from a single kitchen cabinet to an entire spare room—that can function as a family information center and workstation.

In an effort to battle clutter and keep track of schedules, designer Brian Patrick Flynn helps clients kick the habit of spreading out items around their homes.

"These days, it's pretty much a given that families use their kitchen islands, dining tables and/or coffee tables as prime real estate for laptops, school papers, iPhones and mail," says Flynn, founder and editor of decorademon.com.

"When I'm designing entire homes, especially ones for young families, the first thing I focus on is locating a seldom-used corner, section or nook somewhere easily accessible to create a creative and organizational hub. This usually follows my tirade of, 'No more using the dining table or breakfast nook as a clutter station!'"

Here, Flynn and two other interior designers offer tips on creating the perfect family headquarters to wrangle homework assignments, invitations, permission slips, calendars and more.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

The key pieces are:

- a calendar (paper, digital or both) that the whole family can access

- accessible storage space for incoming mail, invitations and permission slips where things won't get forgotten

- a message board (dry-erase white boards and/or corkboards are popular) where family members can post and share information

- a labeled bin or section of corkboard space assigned to each family member

- a power strip for charging electronic devices, with shelf or desk space to keep those items while charging

Ideally, the space will also include a work surface where kids can do homework and parents can handle tasks like filling out permission slips. Many families also include a laptop or desktop computer for homework or checking e-mail. If you have a computer handy, you're more likely to enter information digitally and eliminate paper clutter.

WHERE TO PUT IT?

Homes built in the past few years often come with what Flynn calls a "bonus room" with no designated purpose. These small, spare rooms



◀ In this undated publicity photo, designer Brian Patrick Flynn turned a disorganized catch-all room seen here into a clean and colorful creative space decorated solely with random leftover pieces pulled from storage.

AP

▼ In this undated publicity photo, designer Brian Patrick Flynn turned a disorganized catch-all room into a clean and colorful creative space as shown here, decorated solely with random leftover pieces pulled from storage. Flynn uses bold color as a backdrop, then unites the disparate pieces with touches of the same accent color.

AP

work well as a family organization center, as do mudrooms.

Atlanta-based designer Malory Mathison has helped clients convert a pantry or small closet into an organizational hub. She suggests removing the doors to open up the space, then adding a deep shelf that can be used as a desktop. Tack fabric to the underside of the shelf and hem it just above the floor, creating hidden storage space and a place to tuck a bench or stool.

Shelves can be added to the wall above the desktop, along with a message board and calendar.

If you lack a spare room or closet, designer Cortney Novogratz suggests choosing one corner of your kitchen, since it's a room the entire family uses daily. Novogratz, co-star of HGTV's "Home by Novogratz" series, lives in Manhattan with her husband and seven children. She often works with clients who have

limited space, so she advises them to use a single kitchen cabinet as their organizational hub.

Novogratz suggests lining the cabinet door with the calendar and corkboard or dry-erase board. Then add small bins on the cabinet shelves for each family member's items. A small laptop can be kept inside the cabinet and taken out for use at the kitchen table.

For additional storage, she suggests buying a rolling cart with labeled drawers where each child in the family can keep things like pending work or art supplies. This can be wheeled around the kitchen or other rooms as needed. Novogratz says it helps kids stay organized and feel a sense of ownership over their work when they have a permanent space for it, even if it's just a labeled drawer.

WHAT FURNITURE DO YOU NEED?

The costliest option is hiring a



carpenter to install a built-in, custom workstation with a desktop, shelving and closed storage.

Flynn suggests a cheaper alternative: Buy two kitchen cabinets from a big-box home improvement store, and two pre-fab bookcases. Assemble the cabinets, then the bookcases and stack them directly on top of the base cabinets. Mount them to the wall and add some basic molding to the front edge,

creating "the look of custom built-ins, but for only a few hundred bucks."

To save even more, he suggests plundering the rest of your home in search of old furniture. "I recently took one hot mess of a bonus room, which was used for checking e-mail, working on art projects and keeping kids' artwork and files stored, then turned it into a colorful, designer-caliber multipurpose space

using 100 percent leftover pieces from other rooms," he says.

He placed two old dressers next to each other, using their surfaces as a place to collect mail and pending paperwork. He outfitted the dresser drawers with a hanging file system, then brought in an old table and chairs from a child's playroom.

"You can make just about anything work together, as long as disparate pieces are united with the proper color story. In my case, I gathered white, brown, gray and blue pieces, then set them all against a fire-engine-red backdrop."

Another option: If space is limited, Mathison suggests searching estate sales (or your

own attic) for one large piece of furniture like a wooden secretary, which has a desktop and a mix of open and closed storage. Refinish it with several coats of glossy paint and, if necessary, drill holes in the back for power cords.

HOW DO YOU MAKE IT WORK?

Even the best system won't work unless you use it. Flynn says beautiful, bright colors can help draw you to your organizational space, and successful homework projects and tests can be posted alongside your kids' artwork for added inspiration.

Plan the space carefully based on your needs—do older kids need extra space for doing homework? Are you juggling lots of appointments and need to make your calendar the centerpiece? Novogratz suggests hanging up a family calendar and business calendar together so you can mark things on both, and kids can see when you'll be busy with work commitments.

If scheduling is key, post pending items like permission slips and invitations in a prominent spot or keep them in an inbox that you'll check regularly.

Billy Joel set to release a new collection

By GLENN GAMBOA
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—Billy Joel is set to release a new compilation, "She's Got a Way: Love Songs" (Legacy), gathering much of his romantic music in one ready-to-give-to-your-Valentine place.

The collection, out Tuesday, contains many of his greatest love songs—including "Just the Way You Are," "She's Always a Woman" and "She's Got a Way"—among its 18 tracks, alongside some surprises like "Travelin' Prayer" from "Piano Man" and "This

Night," a B-side from "An Innocent Man." However, Joel certainly has enough love in his catalog to fill several compilations, even if you leave out his versions of other artists' songs, like Bob Dylan's "To Make You Feel My Love."

Here are five other songs that Joel should consider for the sequel:

- "A Matter of Trust" (1986): Arguably Joel's most rocking love song, it's built around an electric guitar and the desire to convince his girlfriend/ wife to take the leap into a deeper rela-

tionship with him.

- "All My Life" (2007): Joel wrote the gorgeous American Songbook-style ballad for his then-wife Katie Lee, but he intended it to be recorded by his pal Tony Bennett. Joel ended up recording it himself and releasing it as his first single since "The River of Dreams."

- "Leave a Tender Moment Alone" (1984): A pretty nod to doo-wop combined with some friendly advice to himself about trying to keep calm in the midst of his courtships. The harmonica solos from the great Toots Thielemans make

the "Moment" that much more special.

- "Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel)" (1993): Inspired by his daughter, Alexa Ray Joel, "Lullabye" showcases Joel at his most unguarded, using spare piano accompaniment and simple lyrics to express his feelings.

- "Tell Her About It" (1984): The advice doesn't get much better than: "Tell her about it, tell her everything you feel, give her every reason to accept that you're for real." The doo-wop backing vocals don't get much better, either.

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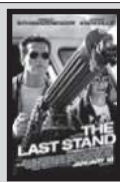
Broken City

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Friday | | 4:10 | 7:10 | 10:00 |
| Saturday and Sunday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 | 10:00 |
| Monday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 4:10 | 7:10 | |

Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe, Catherine Zeta-Jones
Genre: Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

An ex-cop turned private eye (Mark Wahlberg) is thrown head-first into a hotbed of trouble after a mayor (Russell Crowe) hires him to look into his cheating wife. Book of Eli's Allen Hughes directs from a script by Brian Tucker.



The Last Stand

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:35 |
| Saturday and Sunday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:35 |
| Monday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 4:05 | 7:05 | |

Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Forest Whitaker
Genre: Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as Sheriff Owens, a disgraced lawman who fled the LAPD to lord over the sleepy border town of Sommerton Junction, which becomes the only thing in the way of an escaped head of a drug cartel's path to freedom in Lionsgate's The Last Stand. I Saw the Devil's Kim Jee-woon directs from a script by Andrew Knauer and Jeffrey Nachmanoff.



Mama

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:30 |
| Saturday and Sunday | 1:20 | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:30 |
| Monday | 1:20 | 4:00 | 7:00 | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 4:00 | 7:00 | |

Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Jessica Chastain
Genre: Horror • Rated PG 13



Gangsters Squad

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:15 | 7:15 | 9:50 |
| Saturday and Sunday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | 9:50 |
| Monday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 4:15 | 7:15 | |

Cast: Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, Josh Brolin
Genre: Crime • Rated R



Les Misérables

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|------|--|
| Friday | | 4:20 | 7:50 | |
| Saturday and Sunday | 1:00 | 4:20 | 7:50 | |
| Monday | 1:00 | 4:20 | 7:50 | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 4:20 | 7:50 | |

Cast: Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway
Genre: Musical • Rated PG 13



Texas Chainsaw 3D

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|------|--|
| Friday | | 7:30 | 9:45 | |
| Saturday and Sunday | 1:30 | 7:30 | 9:45 | |
| Monday | 1:30 | 7:30 | | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 7:30 | | |

Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood
Genre: Horror • Rated R



Texas Chainsaw 2D

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------|--|--|
| Friday | | 4:30 | | |
| Saturday and Sunday | | 4:30 | | |
| Monday | | 4:30 | | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 4:30 | | |

Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood
Genre: Horror • Rated R



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|------|--|--|
| Friday | | 7:55 | | |
| Saturday and Sunday | 12:55 | 7:55 | | |
| Monday | 12:55 | 7:55 | | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 7:55 | | |

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------|--|--|
| Friday | | 4:25 | | |
| Saturday and Sunday | | 4:25 | | |
| Monday | | 4:25 | | |
| Tues through Thurs | | 4:25 | | |

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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'Twilight' creator Meyer makes Sundance debut

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Stephenie Meyer knows all about obsessive fans. So it makes sense that the "Twilight" author should produce a movie about a woman who takes another writer's work a little too much to heart.

Meyer is a producer on the Sundance Film Festival premiere "Austenland," adapted from her friend Shannon Hale's novel that follows the romantic misadventures of a Jane Austen devotee.

"Austenland" stars Keri Russell as a woman named Jane who is so fanatical about the "Pride and Prejudice" author's fiction that she blows her life savings to visit an Austen-themed British resort. Jane is so fixated on finding her own Austen-style suitor that she has a life-size cut-out of Colin Firth as aloof suitor Mr. Darcy in a BBC production of "Pride and Prejudice."

"I have seen firsthand fanatic fans, passionate people who want to live in that world so badly, who want to be a part of it," Meyer said Saturday in an interview. "I've seen tattoos that scare me to death. I mean, those things are forever. That's not a joke. And I do think people can definitely take that fan love too far. I think it's nice



Stephanie Meyer from the film "Austenland," poses for a portrait during the 2013 Sundance Film Festival at the Fender Music Lodge, on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, in Park City, Utah.

actually to see Jane's journey here, because she realizes this and sort of steps out of it."

"Austenland" marks the directing debut of Jerusha Hess, whose career took off with the 2004 Sundance hit "Napoleon Dynamite," which she co-wrote with her husband, director Jared Hess.

She and Meyer met up through mutual friend Hale. Meyer, who read "Austenland" before it was published, said that she and Hale joked that 10 years down the road, they would get a camera, go to Eng-

land and make it into a movie themselves.

Hale later met Hess about another film project and mentioned that she and Meyer were dreaming of turning "Austenland" into a movie.

Hess then read "Austenland" and said, "No, this one's mine. Let's do this," said Meyer, who hit it off immediately with Hess. "Jerusha's really lovely and, like Shannon, someone I have a lot in common with. All three of us are moms, and we kind of balance the creative and the real life.

"Jerusha's phenomenally

Seen and heard at Sundance

Associated Press journalists open their notebooks at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah:

WHO NEEDS A FILM IN THE FEST?

Corey Feldman doesn't have a movie at the Sundance Film Festival, but that doesn't mean he's not making the most of his time in Park City.

On Friday night, Feldman and a bevy of beauties danced as Dave Grohl and his Sound City Players performed a marathon concert at Park City Live. And on Saturday, Feldman got into the act himself, giving a concert of sorts at the Fender Music Lodge in front of a bemused crowd.

Feldman, dressed in what appeared to be a leather-like suit reminiscent of former friend and idol Michael Jackson, lip-synched some of his high-energy performance. He was accompanied by women dressed in white, like angels, and sporting angel-wings and halos.

"This is a new form of entertainment," Feldman said.

Feldman admitted his performance might be a little rusty. At one point, he told the crowd, "This is one I don't know the words to" and asked for help.

HUNT FOR OBL CHRONICLED YET AGAIN

Osama bin Laden remains big box office with the manhunt thriller "Zero Dark Thirty."

The story of the al-Qaeda

leader also is being told at the Sundance Film Festival with the documentary "Manhunt: The Search for Osama bin Laden," which premiered Sunday at the independent-film showcase.

Director Greg Barker's film chronicles bin Laden's rise to power during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and his call for jihad against the United States in the 1990s. Using interviews with CIA agents and analysts, the film traces the growing evidence that al-Qaeda planned a major assault on the United States in the months leading up to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Manhunt" then recounts the immense increase in resources committed to the CIA's hunt for bin Laden, the story that is dramatized in "Zero Dark Thirty."

The documentary includes footage of the last-known video of bin Laden, before he was killed in a Navy SEALs raid in 2011 in Pakistan. While al-Qaeda recruited followers to carry out suicide attacks, CIA analysts said bin Laden never sought to die for his cause himself.

"He did everything possible to stay alive," one analyst said.

"Manhunt" will air later this year on HBO.

A TIPPING POINT FOR CHARITY

The Park City bar Rock & Reilly's had some high profile help on Sunday—Scooter Braun, manager to Justin Bieber and Psy.

Braun—dressed in pajamas,

like other servers—poured shots, served up beers and more at the party, which was also attended by Mekhi Phifer and San Francisco Giants pitcher Brian Wilson.

Wilson was glued to the TV, cheering on the New England Patriots, playing the Baltimore Ravens in the AFC championship game.

Meanwhile, Braun was getting his share of tips—which went to the charity Pencils of Promise. To get more people to show the love, he pledged to match every donation, dollar for dollar.

Rock & Reilly's is a Los Angeles bar that has opened up an outpost in Park City.

DELAYED REACTION

"Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer was not an early adopter of one of the biggest hits to come out of the Sundance Film Festival, the 2004 world-of-weirdoes comedy "Napoleon Dynamite."

Meyer's at Sundance this time with "Napoleon Dynamite" co-writer Jerusha Hess, whose directing debut "Austenland" premiered at the festival. A producer on "Austenland," Meyer said she and Hess hit it off right away and have a lot in common, even though she didn't appreciate "Napoleon Dynamite" when she first saw it.

"I was with another thirty-something mom in a theater full of teenage kids, and they're laughing their butts off. And we're sitting there going, 'Am I that old? I don't get it,'" Meyer

funny and she's just very self-deprecating. She doesn't realize how adorable she is. She's really fun to hang out with."

Hess, whose "Napoleon Dynamite" world was off-kilter, read Hale's novel of Austen zealotry and had her own vision for the film version.

"Let's make it weirder," said Hess, who joked that she instructed production associates to make sure 50 pounds of feathers were in every shot and suggested that the servants' cod pieces all be stuffed. For those unfamiliar with 16th-century European men's fashion, a cod piece covered the opening in front of a man's breeches.

"Austenland" co-stars Jennifer Coolidge, JJ Field, Georgia King and Bret McKenzie of the music duo Flight of the Conchords.

While Russell's Jane in "Austenland" is a hopeless romantic, Meyer said she's a very different character from Bella Swan, the love-struck teen played by Kristen Stewart in the five blockbusters adapted from the "Twilight" books.

"Bella isn't like this super fan girl," Meyer said. "Kristen has her own take on it, but for me, Bella is kind of a homebody. She's very practical, and she doesn't get lost in fantasies."

said. "I kind of was like, wow, I feel bad. I didn't get this.

"And then I went home, and the next day, I started quoting it, and I'm snickering to myself all day. 'Tina, you fat lard,'" Meyer said, quoting a favorite "Napoleon Dynamite" line. "It was like this weird delayed reaction. And the funny lasts longer than a regular joke. It's funny forever."

WILD ABOUT DAN, NOT SO MUCH ABOUT HARRY

Dane DeHaan, one of Daniel Radcliffe's co-stars in the Sundance premiere "Kill Your Darlings," shared a deep, dark secret with the "Harry Potter" star at the festival: DeHaan's just now getting around to catching the flicks about the young wizard.

"Dan, I never told you," DeHaan confessed in an interview Saturday alongside Radcliffe. "I started watching them when we got finished filming" on "Kill Your Darlings."

Radcliffe asked how many DeHaan had watched and was disheartened that his co-star so far had just caught the first few, when the "Potter" star was a kid still learning his craft.

"Oh, no, you've only done the early ones. Why are you doing them?" said Radcliffe, who stars as a young Allen Ginsberg in "Kill Your Darlings."

DeHaan promised that he eventually would watch all the "Harry Potter" films but said his real admiration was for the actor playing the Hogwarts hero.

"I'm a Dan fan," DeHaan said.

An unlikely heartthrob brimming with talent

By MELISSA RUGGIERI
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

ATLANTA—Midway through Ed Sheeran's set, an amazing thing happened.

With a lopsided smile and a charming accent, he somehow managed to get the 10,000-plus people crammed into Gwinnett Arena to silence their chatter and random squealing of his name and even, for a few minutes, to disregard their smartphones.

Then, something even more incredible happened at the Jingle Jam concert Sheeran headlined last month.

Sheeran wasn't shushing the crowd to sing his hit ballad, "The A Team," or even to do "Little Things," the swoony tune he gave to his pals in One Direction, or "Everything Has Changed," the song he wrote and sang with Taylor Swift for her current album, "Red." No, the ginger-headed Brit wanted to work his magic by creating loops of his voice and percussion sounds with his mouth as the backdrop to a traditional folk song, "The Wayfaring Stranger." And the audience was rapt.

"I've only just perfected being able to tell an audience to shut up," Sheeran said with a laugh. "I never had the right before. When you're opening for other acts, as I did for so long, your job is to entertain. But since I'm going to do more headlining shows and people are spending \$28 to see me, I know they're there to listen to music."

When it was mentioned how impressive it was that the audience obeyed, Sheeran softly chuckled again.



Ed Sheeran attends the Washington DC Jingle Ball concert at the Patriot Center in Fairfax, Virginia on Tuesday, December 11, 2012.

"It isn't always. I once had someone in the front row plug in their iPod while I was performing."

As usual, it was just be just him onstage with his guitar and a looping pedal and microphone—an on-the-spot layering technique he learned seven years ago, at age 14, from Irish musician Gary Dunne.

Sheeran was calling from Ireland, where he was set to perform that evening with plenty of his family in attendance. Though he

was raised in Framlingham, England, Sheeran's paternal grandparents were Irish.

No surprise, then, that his debut album, "+", has done tremendous business in the U.K., going five-times platinum and spawning a quartet of Top 10 hits. Sheeran also performed at Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee concert last year and at the closing ceremony of the London Olympics, offering a striking ren-

dition of Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" with Nick Mason and Mike Rutherford.

The unlikely heartthrob has been honing his musical skills in pubs and pockets of Nowheresville since 2005, releasing 11 digital EPs before his 2011 album debut.

The ballad that launched Sheeran in the U.S., "The A Team," is up for a song of the year Grammy next month, an honor the young singer-songwriter accepts with humility.

"It's huge," he said. "There was only one thing left on my check list and it was a nomination. But I never expected to get song of the year. I feel like I've established myself in the U.K. and Australia, but to sit among truly great artists in America ..."

Sheeran plans to spend most of this year in Tennessee while touring with Swift and working on his second album on days off from the road.

"I want to make sure the caliber of the songs is such a high quality that even if I don't get the right radio support, the album can stand on its own," he said.

One person Sheeran has received plenty of support from is Elton John.

"There's no one kind of bigger," Sheeran said. "He tells me he sees a lot of his early self in me and since he's already done it, he knew the pitfalls. It's been humbling to see him bring me up every time he does an interview. Literally, I got a call from him three times in one week when my new song was getting more adds at radio. He just got very excited about it. That's very cool."

Nurse's grief at patients' loss was felt by her whole family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to "Still Grieving in Arkansas" (Nov. 20), who was upset that he didn't get a response to a note he sent to his wife's treating physician after her death.

As an RN, my mom had a tendency to become very close to patients who required long-term care in the hospital. It seemed that she never had any "emotional detachment" from her patients, but instead formed an "emotional attachment."

I recall many times during the convalescence or death of these patients, Mom would come home from work and go to bed and cry from her own bereavement. As her son, I grieved, too, because it hurt me to see Mom hurting. As a young child, my father, siblings and I could have done without these periods of unnecessary emotional pain.

Therefore, Dear Abby, I think you were right to say, "Please forgive them" when doctors and nurses don't exhibit public remorse during times of grief.

RN'S SON IN GEORGIA

DEAR RN'S SON: Thank you for describing your mother's response to a patient's passing and how it affected the family. However, I also heard from many health care providers who said that it IS their duty to acknowledge the passing of one of their patients, and it should be considered part of the healing process for both the patient's family and the health care provider. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a hematologist-oncologist. I try to send a sympathy card to each family after the death of their relative. If I receive a note or a copy of an obituary, I try to call the person to thank them for taking the time to contact me.

After seeing "Grieving's" letter, I took an informal poll of my colleagues and was gratified that many DO send notes. I was surprised that some do not extend sympathies. After hearing it, I encouraged them all to do so. It's the least we can do to promote healing among the survivors.

OHIO ONCOLOGIST

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired medical oncologist. Early in my career, a grieving patient's husband berated me for not contacting the family after his wife died. It was then that I realized that despite my excellent care, the family needed something more—closure. For 30 years, until I retired, I sent a personal sympathy card and message to each family concerning their loss. Sharing these thoughts also gave ME closure.

DOCTOR JACK IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: Please let "Grieving" know that one reason the health care professionals did not acknowledge his wife's death may have been they were instructed by the hospital/treatment center not to. In this day and age, when doctors are sued for malpractice, these types of sympathy notes can be used in court.

YVONNE IN AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

DEAR ABBY: I am at an age when I have lost many family members. NOT ONCE has the doctor sent a condolence card or letter to any family member. On the other hand, I have also lost many pets. Each time, the veterinarian sent a card or note, personally signed and often with the signatures of the entire office staff. I do not believe medical doctors care less for their patients than veterinary doctors care for family pets, but that vets have made sending condolences part of their office protocol. Medical doctors might well consider adding that protocol to their practices.

MARY IN VIRGINIA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Gordon-Levitt makes directorial debut at Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Just call him Mr. Sundance.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt is attending his sixth Sundance Film Festival, this time as writer and star of his directorial debut and host of the festival's closing awards ceremony.

The 31-year-old premiered "Don Jon's Addiction" Friday at the independent film showcase. He plays the title character, a man who prefers pornography to real sex, even though he brings home a different woman every weekend. Scarlett Johansson, Tony Danza and Julianne Moore also star.

"I wanted to tell a love story, and in my observations, what gets in the way of love oftentimes is the way the people objectify each other," Gordon-Levitt said in an interview Saturday. "The

story centers on a relationship between a boy and a girl, and the boy watches too much pornography, and the girl watches too many romantic Hollywood movies, and they're both sort of objectifying each other."

He brought the film to Sun-



Gordon-Levitt

dance because of its community of artists who love storytelling.

"It's a community that reassures each other that there's more to movies than glitz and glamor and box office," he said. "And look, that stuff's all fine. But stories predate Hollywood. Stories predate the English language, and the reason that I love working in movies is because I love stories ... and I love being a part of this community here at Sundance that embraces that more than some of the other things that

He even danced and kissed a fan onstage—and on the lips—while Beyonce's "Party" blasted.

"Just be whoever you are, no matter what they say," Common said to the crowd.

The rapper also hit the stage

tend to take prominence in other parts of the movie industry."

He said his film "would never get made within the studio system, but it's a mainstream comedy."

"It doesn't follow the formula, but it's going to get out there and be in front of mainstream audiences," he said. "Sundance makes that possible for movies that don't follow the same old formula to get out there and find audiences."

Gordon-Levitt said he plans to spend the week seeing films before hosting the awards ceremony on Jan. 26.

Will.i.am, Legend take part in young voters event

WASHINGTON (AP)—Will.i.am says though he's an active supporter of President Barack Obama, don't expect the Black Eyed Peas leader to become a politician.

"Nope. I like it from this angle," he said in an interview Saturday night during an event for OurTime.org, a non-profit organization that encourages young people to vote.

Several hundred people packed the Washington event, where

John Legend, Common and T-Pain performed.

The event was just one of will.i.am's inaugural appearances. He will be a guest at Obama's public swearing-in ceremony Monday and at the Inaugural Ball later that day.

He said it "feels good" to help the Obama campaign and that he wants to see young voters do more.

Common kicked off the live performances with songs like "The People" and "Testify."



Will.i.am

He even danced and kissed a fan onstage—and on the lips—while Beyonce's "Party" blasted.

The rapper also hit the stage

with Legend, who played piano as Common performed "The Light." Legend slowed the night's upbeat mood, crooning on songs like "Green Light," "Tonight (Best You Ever Had)" and "Ordinary People."

Newly crowned Miss America 2013 Mallory Hagan and actress Sophie Bush also attended.

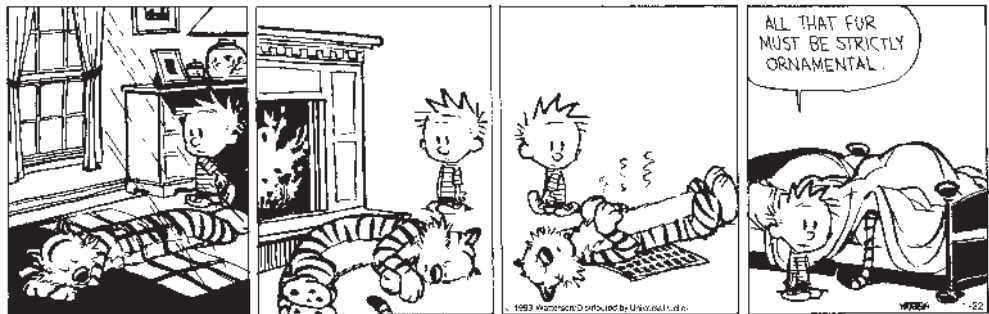
Rapper-singer T-Pain closed the night, performing hits like "Bartender," "5 o'clock," "Good Life" and "Blame It."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

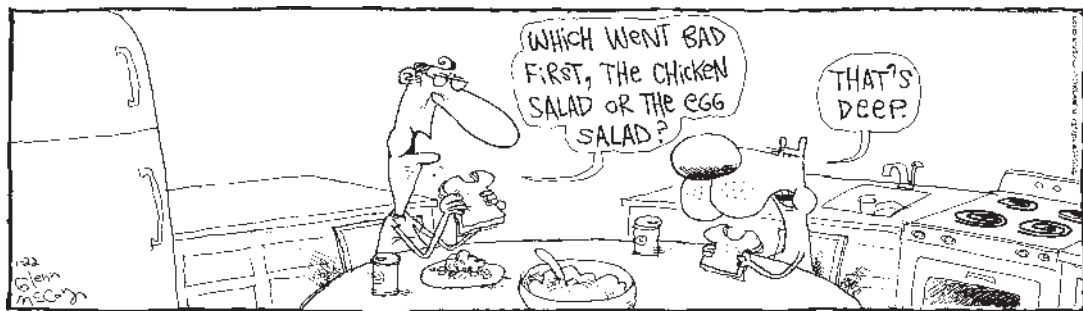
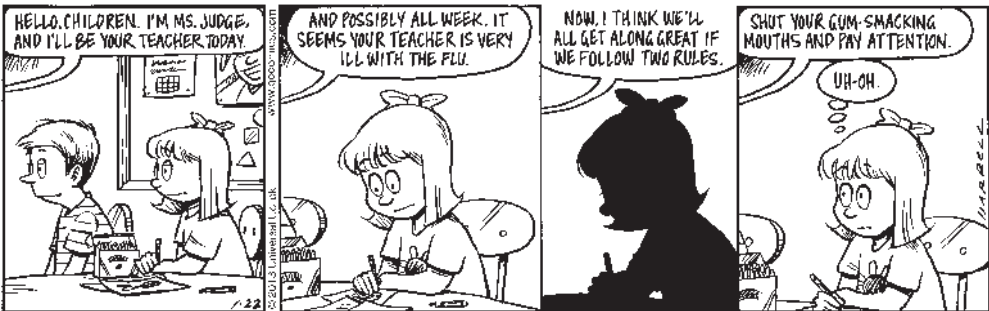
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Flex 36 Ceremony 37 Wild West show 38 Acid neutralizer 41 Scatter seed 42 Skeletal bark 43 Alabama's state flower 48 Fencing sword 49 Past 50 Deserve 51 Lecherous look 52 Journey segment 53 Colored

DOWN 1 Telly letters 2 Mound stat 3 Intent 4 Given new energy 5 Jekyll counter-part 6 Square root of IX 7 Astro-naut, usually 8 Goes bad 9 Hen-house 10 Pasta resembling rice 11 Adolescent 16 Yoko of music 20 Rested 21 Uncategorized (Abbr.) 22 Met melody 23 Tranquil 24 Baseball's Satchel 26 Decisive 27 Newspaper pg. 28 Highway division 29 Within (Pref.) 31 \$50, in Monopoly 34 Orison 35 Tackled tenpins 37 Fish eggs 38 First victim 39 Easy bounding gait 40 Elbow counter-part 41 Urban pollutant 44 Time of your life? 45 Secular 46 Anger 47 As well as

Solution time: 21 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | P | E | F | O | A | M | S | F | B | I |
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| M | U | F | F | L | E | R | E | N | T | |
| U | R | L | E | N | D | N | I | F | C | F |
| S | A | U | L | T | I | C | D | R | U | G |
| E | L | F | I | N | A | R | F | E | R | A |
| F | O | O | T | F | I | U | D | F | D | |
| D | J | I | N | N | I | W | A | S | | |
| R | U | E | F | L | U | M | M | O | X | E |
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| P | E | T | T | H | I | N | S | Z | O | O |

Yesterday's answer 1-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bal-thazar Getty, 38; Guy Fieri, 45; Diane Lane, 48; John Hurt, 73.

Happy Birthday: Don't underestimate what you are capable of doing. Shoot for the stars and don't look back. You'll have greater perspective regarding how you can get from point A to point B flawlessly. Larger quarters or changing your lifestyle to suit your current needs will lead to greater happiness. Think and take action and you will reach your set goals. Your numbers are 2, 6, 16, 24, 26, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An offer you cannot refuse will develop if you are generous with your time, knowledge and suggestions. Don't limit the possibilities because of someone who cannot make up his or her mind. Stick to your game plan. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ulterior motives will be behind an offer you receive from one of your peers. Proceed with caution. You may be best to do your own thing and forego having to get involved in a situation that may not be in your best interest. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You know what you want and how to go about getting it. Put your best foot forward and dazzle everyone with your ability to present something unique. Greater prosperity will come through the connections you make now. Speak your mind. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Plan to visit an interesting destination or take part in an event that will open your eyes to different cultures or ways of doing things. The experience

you have now will help you pick and choose better options and ways of doing things. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take more time to secure partnerships with people who can make a difference to your future. Expanding your interests and your circle of friends will help you develop an alternative way to make your money grow. Say what's on your mind. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't make a fuss. Deal with what's being asked of you and you'll gain respect and find time to do something you enjoy. Socializing or getting involved in a new pastime will brighten your day. Love is in the stars **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make a good impression by sharing your knowledge, skills and suggestions as well as offering hands-on-help to someone you feel has potential. Physical activity will help you look your best as well as spice up your social life. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Fix up your home or utilize your space to better suit a hobby or project you want to pursue. Taking a serious look at your life and what you want to do in the future will help you make a decision regarding current partnerships. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will be difficult to contain. Make sure you address issues that have been bothering you or pending for some time. The changes you make now will help you deal with past and present relationships. Ask for what you want. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid making unnecessary changes. You are best to stick to what you know and do best. Problems while traveling or dealing with friends, relatives or neighbors will develop if you aren't willing to compromise. Gossip will be misleading. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be faced with a choice that can alter the way you live. Visitors will offer suggestions that can help you move ahead with your plans. Sharing your thoughts can hurt a relationship that has been dear to you in the past. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep life simple. Avoid overdoing it mentally, physically or financially. Too much of anything will lead to rumors. A change of heart or plans will help push you out of harm's way. Someone you are close to will take you by surprise. **

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, entrepreneurial and a compassionate communicator, friend and advisor.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | 1 | | | | 8 | | 9 |
| 2 | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | | 6 | | | 9 | |
| | 8 | | 7 | | 3 | | 2 | |
| | 4 | | | 9 | | | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | 6 | 8 | 9 | | | 4 |
| 3 | | 4 | | | | 9 | | 5 |

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/22 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DO YOU HAVE A SWEET TOOTH? Solution: 8 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | B | P | C | E | K | A | C | E | S | E | E | H | C | T |
| Y | V | O | R | F | A | S | T | U | N | H | G | U | O | D |
| R | A | G | U | S | K | I | T | K | A | T | N | O | F | E |
| U | N | O | N | N | R | O | L | O | W | O | T | H | F | S |
| P | I | B | C | I | T | A | S | I | M | S | S | H | E | S |
| T | L | S | H | Y | V | Y | X | A | I | R | I | E | E | E |
| R | L | T | E | D | I | A | N | E | U | C | O | N | C | R |
| S | A | O | E | N | S | N | R | O | E | S | R | R | R | T |
| E | M | P | Y | A | I | O | S | C | I | M | E | Y | I | W |
| K | S | P | E | C | L | F | R | K | Y | S | A | I | S | I |
| A | G | E | H | L | E | E | F | F | O | T | E | R | P | N |
| C | I | R | S | T | A | G | U | O | N | R | I | T | S | K |
| P | B | S | R | M | I | L | K | Y | W | A | Y | U | T | I |
| U | R | L | E | M | A | R | A | C | D | E | S | I | R | E |
| C | M | C | H | O | C | O | L | A | T | E | G | D | U | F |

© 2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 1/22 Aero, Bounty, Candy, Caramel, Cheesecake, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Coffee Crisp, Craving, Crunch, Cupcakes, Desire, Dessert, Doughnuts, Fast, Fine, Fruity, Fudge, Gobstoppers, Hershey, Ice Cream, Kit Kat, Mars, Milky Way, Mr. Big, Noisette, Nougat, Oh Henry, Pies, Rolo, Skor, Small, Sours, Sugar, Syrup, Toffee, Tootsie Roll, Twinkie, Twix, Vanilla Yesterday's Answer: Hug Today

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Electrician-\$5.55/hour, 5 years experience, flexible hours. Email resume to 82threads@gmail.com

2DiveMaster. Mustspeak/read Mandarin. Must be licensed. Mail resume to KDC PMB1175 Box 10001 SPN

Commercial Cleaners (3) Email resume and references to beej_johnson@yahoo.com.

BFJ Corporation. One (1) Administrative Assistant. College level at 5 years experience, Computer Literate: Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Outlook. Applicant must have excellent written and oral communication skills and must have international purchasing experience and understanding of basic technical specifications, with Valid Driver License and Police Clearance.

One (1) Sales Representative. College level at 5 years experience in marketing. Applicant must have excellent written & oral communication skills, with Valid Driver License and Police Clearance. Multilingual: Chinese, Korean, Japanese.

SVE. One (1) General Maintenance. 3-5 years experience with Valid Driver License and Police Clearance.

All interested applicants may email their resume @cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com attention to: Mr. John C. Jones.

1 Bookkeeper \$5.55/hr. Pls. email ahcg.acctg@gmail.com. August Healthcare Group, LLC tel 233-4582

1 General Manager: \$1,200-1,760/mo. Bachelor's degree & 4 yrs experience required. Must report to overseas owner in Korean. Email resume to jnd@hanmisaipan.com.

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3 General Helper. Minimum of 5 years experience. Willing to work on flexible time. \$ 5.55/hr
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dba Carefree Services / Exquisite Beauty Salon
Please contact Rudy at 233-6927

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dba WVC Pawnshop & WVC Wholesale
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5 years experience. Knowledge in precious stones and metals a must. Police clearance required. Call 233-6047 for interview appointment. Bring Bio Data and employment certification from previous employers.

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TWIC card holder preferred
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Closing Date: January 22, 2013
Contact: 285-1487

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
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dba Perfectly Set & VMC Pawnshop
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1 Jewelry Appraiser
1 Pawnshop Manager
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• Have the ability to prepare Financial Reports
• Proficient in MS Office and Accounting Software
• Must have excellent communication, organizational & self management skills.
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1st Floor Port of Saipan Building
Puerto Rico, Saipan MP 96950

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Please submit application or resume to Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health Clinic at Chalan Kiya, Saipan or call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124 for more information.

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• Sells HVACR mechanical, electrical and related equipment, parts, supplies with required professional engineering knowledge and judgment on product recommendation
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• Knowledgeable in Building Management System
• Knowledgeable in interpreting plans & specifications and prepare shop drawing

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• EPA Section 608 and R-410A Certification required

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|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|
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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Ravens upset Patriots to reach Super Bowl



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Oh, brother!

John Harbaugh and his Baltimore Ravens set up a family reunion at the Super Bowl, shutting down the New England Patriots 28-13 Sunday in the AFC championship game.

The Ravens reached their first Super Bowl in 12 years, thanks to three touchdown passes from Joe Flacco and a defense led by Ray Lewis that made Tom Brady look downright ordinary.

Next up for Harbaugh and the Ravens is younger brother Jim and the San Francisco 49ers, who beat Atlanta 28-24 earlier in the day for the NFC title.

"I don't know if we had a dream this big," John Harbaugh said. "We had a few dreams, we had a few fights, we had a few arguments—just like all brothers."

They'll meet in two weeks in New Orleans—what a place for a party to celebrate the first brother-vs.-brother coaching matchup in Super Bowl history.

It also will be quite a last game for Lewis, the emotional linebacker who will retire after the matchup with the 49ers, who opened as a 5-point favorite.

"This is our time. This is our time," said Lewis, who made 14 tackles Sunday and has 44 in three postseason games after missing 10 weeks with a torn right triceps.

Driven by Lewis' pending departure from the NFL, Baltimore's defense stepped up in the playoffs. Brady was 67-0 at home when leading at halftime, but this was no contest in the second half.

"We've lost before. It takes a while to get over," Brady said.

It also was a first for the Patriots, who hadn't lost an AFC championship at home.

After they had avenged last year's AFC title game loss at Gillette Stadium, many of the Ravens gathered on the field jumping, chest-bumping and whooping before several thousand fans wearing Ravens jerseys—mostly Lewis' No. 52—who remained in the stands.

As in the previous two playoff wins against Indianapolis and Denver, the Ravens (13-6) were brilliant offensively in spots. This might be 17-year-veteran Lewis' team, but it's also Flacco's, and the quarterback's six road wins are the most in playoff history.

"It was pretty awesome," said Flacco, who has eight touchdown passes and no interceptions in the playoffs. "We were here last year and thought we had it, but came up a little short. Guys came out in the second half and made plays. ... We put pressure on them like that, and it worked pretty well."

Flacco, whose contract ends after the Super Bowl, is the only quarterback to win a playoff game in each of his first five seasons. He was dynamic with his



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco (5) and inside linebacker Ray Lewis, right, celebrate near the end of the second half of the NFL football AFC Championship game against the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

arm and precise with his decision making. Looking much more the championship passer than Brady did, his throws of 11 and 3 yards to Anquan Boldin and 5 to Dennis Pitta all were perfect.

The touchdown by Pitta capped the Ravens' best drive of the game, covering 87 yards in 10 plays and made it 14-13. It started with a 15-yard defensive pass interference penalty, and it was an indication of things to come.

"We've always believed in Joe," Harbaugh said. "And for Joe to come out and to have this kind of a game and this kind of a stage three weeks in a row ..."

New England (13-5) lost a home AFC title matchup for the first time in five games. The loss denied Brady and coach Bill Belichick a shot at their sixth Super Bowl. They've gone 3-2, losing their last two times in the big game.

Instead, it's the AFC North champion Ravens heading to the Big Easy, seeking their second NFL championship. San Francisco has won five.

"All these men out there, there might just be only five of us up here, but every man out there sacrificed this year for each other," Lewis said during the trophy ceremony. "And man, we did it and we're on our way to the Super Bowl. That's awesome."

The Ravens have gotten there the hard way, with no postseason bye. Then again, five of the last seven Super Bowl champions took that route.

The Ravens also were pushed into a second overtime in frigid Denver last weekend before eliminating Peyton Manning and the top-seeded Broncos.

And now they've cast aside the league's most successful franchise of the last dozen years.

"I'd probably say we came up a little short in every area," Belichick said.

New England, which hasn't won a Super Bowl since the 2004 season, had four injuries, the scariest when running back Stevan Ridley was knocked flat by Bernard Pollard in the fourth quarter, forcing a fumble. Baltimore turned that into the final touchdown, on the only short scoring drive it had, 47 yards.

49ers 28, Falcons 24

ATLANTA (AP)—The clutch quarterback. The genius coach. The big-play defense.

The San Francisco 49ers are ready to start a new dynasty with a familiar formula.

Next stop, the Big Easy.

Colin Kaepernick and Frank Gore led San Francisco to a record comeback in the NFC championship game Sunday, overcoming an early 17-0 deficit to beat the Atlanta Falcons 28-24 and send the 49ers to their first Super Bowl since 1995.

Gore scored a pair of touchdowns, including the winner with 8:23 remaining for San Francisco's first lead of the day, and the 49ers defense made it stand up. A fourth-down stop at the 10-yard line denied Atlanta another stirring comeback after blowing a big lead.

"Everybody does a little," 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said, "and it adds up to be a lot."

San Francisco (13-4-1) moves on to face Baltimore at New Orleans in two weeks, looking to join Pittsburgh as the only franchises with six Su-

per Bowl titles. It'll be a brother-vs.-brother matchup, too, since John Harbaugh coaches the Ravens.

Joe Montana led the 49ers to four Super Bowl wins and Steve Young took them to No. 5. It's up to Kaepernick and Co. to get No. 6.

"He just competes like a maniac all the time," said Harbaugh, whose much-debated decision to bench Alex Smith at midseason now looks like the best move of the year.

Harbaugh was hoppin' mad when a disputed call went against the 49ers on Atlanta's potential winning drive. He leaped in the air, screamed at the officials and had to be restrained by his staff from charging the field.

No complaints when it was over.

"We rose up there at the end," Harbaugh said.

His second-year quarterback, who runs like a track star, didn't get a chance to show off his touchdown celebration—flexing his right arm and kissing his bicep, a move that quickly became a social media sensation known as Kaepernicking.

But he shredded the Falcons through the air by completing 16 of 21 for 233 yards, including a 4-yard touchdown to Vernon Davis, and had them so worried about his running ability out of the spread option that Gore and LaMichael James had plenty of room.

Gore scored a pair of touchdowns, including the game winner with 8:23 remaining for San Francisco's first lead of the day. Davis scored the first TD for the 49ers on a 15-yard run.

"I take my hat off to Atlanta. They played hard. They've got

a great team," Gore said. "But we fought, man. We fought and we deserved it."

The 49ers pulled off the biggest comeback victory in an NFC championship game, according to STATS. The previous NFC record was 13 points—Atlanta's victory over Minnesota in the 1999 title game, which sent the Falcons to what remains the only Super Bowl in franchise history.

The AFC championship game record is 18 points, when Indianapolis rallied past New England in 2007.

Harbaugh is hardly cool and collected like the 49ers' first Super Bowl-winning coach, Bill Walsh, but has pulled off a similar turnaround in San Francisco. The 49ers had eight straight years without a winning record before their new coach arrived from Stanford in 2011.

He immediately led San Francisco to the cusp of the Super Bowl, losing to the eventual champion New York Giants in overtime in last year's NFC title game, a bitter defeat at home set up by a fumbled return.

This time, the 49ers were the ones winning on the road to set up another celebration in the city by the bay, which is rapidly becoming the new Titletown USA. They'll try to follow the lead of the baseball Giants, who won the World Series in October.

"We've come full circle," said Denise DeBartolo York, part of the family that has owned the 49ers since their championship days, "and the dynasty will prevail."

Kaepernick guided San Francisco on a pair of second-half scoring drives that wiped out Atlanta's 24-14 lead at the

break. Gore scored on a 5-yard run early in the third quarter, then sprinted in from 9 yards out for the winning score with 8:23 remaining after each team made crucial mistakes to ruin potential scoring drives.

On both of Gore's TDs, the Falcons had to worry about Kaepernick running it in himself. They barely even touched the running back on either play, and James scored pretty much the same way.

"I kind of figured that coming in and they showed that on film, so I assumed Frank and LaMichael were going to have a big day," Kaepernick said. "Frank ran hard today, and I can't say enough about him."

The top-seeded Falcons (14-4), in what appeared to be the final game for Hall of Famer-to-be Tony Gonzalez, tried to pull off another season-extending drive. But, unlike the week before against Seattle, they needed a touchdown this time.

They came up 10 yards short.

On fourth down, Matt Ryan attempted a pass over the middle to Roddy White that would have been enough to keep the drive going. But linebacker Navro Bowman stuck a hand in to knock it away with 1:13 remaining.

The 49ers ran off all but the final 6 seconds, not nearly enough time for Ryan to pull off his greatest comeback yet.

In the divisional playoffs, the Falcons blew a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter, the Seahawks scoring the go-ahead touchdown with 31 seconds remaining. But Ryan completed two long passes, setting up Matt Bryant's 49-yard field goal for 30-28 victory.

The Falcons came up short of their second Super Bowl, leaving the 1995 Braves as the city's only major sports champions. This one figures to hurt for a while.

"We didn't make the plays when we had the opportunity," Falcons coach Mike Smith said. "There were five or six plays, like in most hard-fought games, that make a difference. There were ebbs and flows and changes in momentum, and they made more plays than we did."

Kaepernick, who ran for 181 yards against the Packers the week before to set an NFL playoff record for a quarterback, didn't have much chance to use his legs against the Falcons. He broke off a 23-yard gain, but was thrown for a 2-yard loss the only other time he carried the ball.

But Kaepernick showed he's more than a runner. His favorite receiver was Davis, who hauled in five passes for 106 yards.

Gore carried 21 times for 90 yards, while James added 34 yards on five carries.

Ryan finished 30 of 42 for 396 yards, by far the best performance of his playoff career. But his postseason record dropped to 1-4, done in by two big miscues—an interception and a fumble—in the second half.

Nuggets snap Thunder's win streak with OT victory



DENVER (AP)—Kenneth Faried scored the go-ahead layup in overtime, and the Denver Nuggets overcame 30-plus point games from Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook to beat Oklahoma City 121-118, snapping the Thunder's six-game winning streak.

Corey Brewer scored 26 points, including 15 in the fourth quarter, to lead the Nuggets, who reversed a 20-point loss to Oklahoma City last Wednesday. Danilo Gallinari added 18 points and Faried finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The Thunder, who beat Dallas in overtime Friday night behind a career-high 52 points from Durant, lost for the first time in five overtime games this season. They got 37 points from Durant and 36 from Westbrook.

The game was a difficult one emotionally as well for Thunder coach Scott Brooks, whose 79-year-old mother, Lee, died on Saturday. In a statement released by the club earlier, Brooks thanked friends, family and the team for their support and said his mom would have wanted him to coach Sunday night's game.

"I do so to honor her memory and all that she meant to me as a mother and as an invaluable role model," he said.

The Nuggets took a 101-90 lead after Ty Lawson scored on a putback with 6:40 remaining. But the Thunder managed to pull to 103-96 after Durant made a 3-pointer with 4:17 left to play.

Andre Miller answered with a layup and Brewer made a pair of free throws to rebuild the Nuggets' lead to 107-96 with 3:04 remaining.

Oklahoma responded with a stunning 10-0 run culminating in successive 3-pointers by Durant and Kevin Martin, pulling to within 107-106 with 1:26 left to play.

After Gallinari made a pair of free throws, Westbrook drained a



AP
Denver Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried, top center, reaches up to tip the ball in as Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9), of the Congo, guard Russell Westbrook (0) and forward Kevin Durant, rear left, cover in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

3-pointer to even the score at 109-all with 22.9 seconds remaining.

Maneuvering for a last-second shot, Lawson failed to get a shot off before the buzzer sounded ending regulation, and the game went into overtime.

Faried's driving layup gave the Nuggets a 117-116 lead with 46.5 seconds remaining in overtime. After Durant missed a long jumper, Faried missed two free throws with 10.6 seconds left. As the Thunder were going

for the go-ahead shot, Nick Collison was called for an illegal screen, turning the ball over to the Nuggets.

The Thunder quickly fouled Miller, and he made both free throws with 5.4 seconds remain-

ing. The Nuggets then fouled Durant, who made both free throws to pull the Thunder to within a point with 4.9 seconds left.

On the inbounds, the Thunder fouled Wilson Chandler, who made both free throws with 4.5 seconds left to give the Nuggets a three-point cushion. Durant tried for a tying 3-pointer at the final buzzer but it rimmed out.

Down by a point at the break, the Thunder got a boost when Durant hit his first 3-pointer of the game and Serge Ibaka followed with a basket to give Oklahoma City a 64-61 lead midway through the third quarter. The Nuggets scored the next seven points, starting with a 3-pointer by Gallinari and the game stayed tight with Denver taking an 81-79 lead into the fourth quarter after Corey Brewer made one of two free throws with .04 seconds remaining in the third.

The third quarter was marked by some chippy play on both sides. Kendrick Perkins was called for a flagrant foul when he swung an elbow that caught Faried in the head as they fought for a rebound.

Denver assistant John Welch was called for a technical for his protests from the bench on a goal-tending call against JaVale McGee, which resulted in a basket for Durant.

The teams were tied at 25-all after the first quarter and Denver nudged in front 51-50 at the half when Lawson made one of two free throws near the end of the second quarter.

Raptors 108, Lakers 103

In Toronto, Landry Fields had a season-high 18 points and 10 rebounds as the Raptors handed the Lakers their fifth straight road loss.

Kobe Bryant scored 26 points and Pau Gasol had 25 for the Lakers, whose road skid is their longest in six years. Dwight Howard was ejected after drawing his second technical foul with 1:18 left in the first half.

Jose Calderon had 22 points and nine assists while Ed Davis had 18 points and eight rebounds for Toronto. Alan Anderson added 14 points and eight assists as the Raptors ended a four-game losing streak against the Lakers.

Bryant made 10 of 32 shots, including 3 of 12 on 3-pointers.

Pistons 103, Celtics 88

In Auburn Hills, Mich., rookie Andre Drummond had 16 points and seven rebounds, and Detroit won in its return from Europe.

The Pistons lost to the New York Knicks in London on Thursday, but they didn't look particularly weary in their first game back. Detroit blew an 18-point second-quarter lead but pulled away again in the second half. Boston never led.

Drummond went 5 of 6 from the field, repeatedly slipping free for dunks. He also made 6 of 8 free throws after entering the game shooting 39 percent from the line.

Kevin Garnett scored 16 points for Boston, and Rajon Rondo had eight points, 15 assists, nine rebounds and nine turnovers.

Mavericks 111, Magic 105

In Orlando, Fla., Shawn Marion had 20 points, and O.J. Mayo and Vince Carter scored 15 apiece as Dallas held off a late Orlando surge.

The Mavericks led by 13 in the fourth quarter, before the Magic pulled within a basket in the final minute.

Dallas earned its seventh straight road victory in its series against Orlando. The Mavericks now have five days off before hosting division-leader San Antonio on Friday.

Glen Davis led Orlando with 24 points, followed by Jameer Nelson with 20 and J. J. Redick's 18.

The Magic have lost three of their last four games and also fell for the seventh straight time to an opponent with a sub-.500 record.

Defending champ Azarenka advances to quarterfinals



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Victoria Azarenka advanced to the Australian Open quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Elena Vesnina on Monday, growing more confident she can repeat the winning roll that resulted in her first Grand Slam title here last year.

"It's getting there ... with every match you start building up for the top battles starting now," said Azarenka, who only needed 57 minutes to beat the 47th-ranked Vesnina. "It's really exciting to be again so far in the tournament."

Azarenka started last season with a 26-match winning streak, including a lopsided victory over Maria Sharapova in the Australian Open final.

She moved to No. 1 in the

rankings with that win and has remained there for all but a few weeks since.

But she needs to defend her Australian title to hold the top spot from French Open champion Sharapova or Serena Williams, who won Wimbledon, the London Olympics and U.S. Open titles.

Next up for Azarenka is a quarterfinal against Svetlana Kuznetsova, who entered the season's first major ranked No. 75 but has won titles at the 2004 U.S. Open and 2009 French Open.

Williams was playing later Monday against No. 14 Maria Kirilenko for a place in the quarterfinals against 19-year-old American Sloane Stephens.

Stephens advanced to the last eight of a major for the first time with a 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 win over Serbia's Bojana Jovanovski,

and was looking forward to a potential match against 15-time major winner Williams.

After five breaks of serve in the third set, Stephens broke Jovanovski and then held to advance—knowing her parents and grandparents were watching on TV.

"I'm sure my mother's had like four heart attacks," Stephens joked after the see-sawing match. "I hope my Grandpa didn't have to put my Grandma to bed, because she gets a little worried."

Williams has rated Stephens as a potential World No. 1, although the young American is still yet to break through in a major.

Kuznetsova was given a time warning for taking too long during a changeover in her 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 win earlier Monday over former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, but said it didn't

bother her.

As for Wozniacki, after twice failing to win her breakthrough major as the No. 1-ranked woman at the Australian Open, she is now expected to drop out of the top 10 after a fourth-round loss that follows back-to-back first-round exits at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Kuznetsova is moving in the other direction on her comeback from a right knee injury that ruled her out of the last U.S. Open, ending a run of contesting 40 consecutive majors. And she's looking forward to taking on Azarenka.

"The time I played in Indian Wells was totally a disaster. I got (beaten) very badly," she said. "But, I mean, she's tough; she's No. 1; I have nothing to lose; she has all the pressure."

"I know I got the game to

give her some problems, and I will just do my best and just try to enjoy it."

On the men's side, Frenchman Jeremy Chardy followed up his upset win over 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro by ousting another higher ranked player in the fourth round, beating No. 21 Andreas Seppi 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 on Monday.

He'll next play the winner of Monday's later match between No. 3 Andy Murray and No. 14 Gilles Simon of France.

Another Frenchman already through was seventh-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who beat his old friend Richard Gasquet 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the fourth round.

Tsonga, who lost the 2008 Australian Open final to Novak Djokovic, could meet 17-time major winner Roger Federer in the quarterfinals.

Play on Day 7 ran into Day 8 overnight, when Novak Djokovic needed just over 5 hours to beat Stanislas Wawrinka 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 12-10 in a fourth-round match Sunday night, on the same court where he needed 5:53 to beat Rafael Nadal in last year's final.

"I just had flashback of 2012," said Djokovic, who ripped off his shirt to celebrate again, like he did last year. "It was maybe 45 minutes less this match than the one 12 months ago, but still it was still as exciting. I tried to enjoy the moment and couldn't ask for more. What a match point ... unbelievable."

The win was Djokovic's 18th in a row at Melbourne Park after winning the past two Australian titles, and earned him a place in the quarterfinals of a 15th consecutive major.

Donaldson overtakes Rose to win in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Jamie Donaldson won the Abu Dhabi Championship by one shot Sunday, with Justin Rose narrowly missing a birdie putt on the 18th that would have forced a playoff.

Rose's 8-foot putt rimmed out of the hole, giving the Welshman his second European Tour victory. He shot a 68 to finish at 14-under 274.

Rose (71) threw his club up in the air in frustration while Donaldson flashed a relieved smile. Rose tied for second with Thorbjorn Olesen (69) of Denmark, who also failed to force a playoff on the 18th when his 15-foot birdie putt rolled past the hole. Olesen, playing with Rose, had putt first.

"It was a tough field, brutal golf course," said Donaldson, whose win will move him into the world's top 30.

It was fifth-ranked Rose's tournament



Jamie Donaldson from Wales, left, holds the trophy next to Sheikh Sultan Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority while he holds a falcon after he wins the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship in United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

BATTLE

From Page 28

triathlon contest.

Marceau also ruled XTERRA Saipan for three consecutive seasons (2005 to 2007) and attempted to regain the men's crown last year after a four-year absence, but fell short. Marceau completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 32k bike, and 12k race in 2:31:44, just .39 of a second behind Allen's course record of 2:31:05. Both Marceau and Allen's times are better than Gardner's personal best of 2:34:03 made in 2010 when the latter beat inaugural XTERRA Saipan win-

ner Mike Vine of Canada.

Besides the three champions, three other pros and three newcomers have also expressed their commitment to XTERRA Saipan and their names and accomplishments will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Wednesday edition.

Meanwhile, as of last Friday, 35 have officially registered online for XTERRA Saipan, according to an email former Taga, Inc. president Bill Sakovich sent to members of the CNMI triathlon community last week.

"Another dozen commitments are coming in. Most participants register in February and March, so we are expecting up to 100 plus," Sakovich said in the mass email.

Sakovich is encouraging both on- and off-island triathletes to take advantage of XTERRA Saipan, as slots for the 2013 World XTERRA Championship in Maui, Hawaii will be at stake in the March event. Thirty-nine XTERRA World tickets from 13 age groups are up for grabs in XTERRA Saipan.

Cash prizes will also be given away for the Top 7 finishers in both the men's and women's pro categories. The champion will get a lion share of \$2,200, while \$1,700, \$1,200, \$800, \$500, \$400, and \$300 will go to the No. 2 to 7 finishers.

XTERRA Saipan will be the triath-

BLAZERS

From Page 28

school basketball matches held at the Marians High School Gymnasium.

The Blazers stirred up a healthy lead in the second quarter and hung on to make it past Mount Carmel School's Knights, 56-49, while in the curtain raiser the Jr. Torchbearers established control over Saipan International School's Jr. Geckos from the tip and coasted to a sound 39-26 victory.

Eucon's win marked its first in three tries, while ACS improved to a 2-1 win-loss card.

There were no games yesterday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as the season continues at MHS Gym tomorrow at 4pm with a varsity, junior varsity, and freshmen division

tripleheader between the MHS Dolphins (2-0) and the Manta Rays (1-0) of Saipan Southern High School.

The varsity match started out in a 13-all dead heap as Eucon's Allen Yu and MCS' William Camacho paced their respective squads 9 nine points apiece, but the Blazers' front man took over the game in the second quarter with another 9 markers to push Eucon ahead, 26-15, at the half.

He took a seat during the third verse, which allowed the Knights to creep back into the game thanks to a 7-point string by Camacho late in the period that put them within two possessions, 28-34, heading into the final 10 minutes.

MCS flirted with a comeback by nailing a trio of 3-pointers and briefly made it a one-basket game, 45-47, with four minutes left in regulation, but Eucon's

GUAM

From Page 28

cruised to a 6-1 triumph.

Then last Sunday, the Joon Lee-mentored MP United U12 redeemed the club with a 2-1 victory over the Sidekicks. Michael Lee and Sunjoon Tenorio logged one goal apiece for MP

United. Other members of the squad are Alex Park, Izuka, Joy Makie, Alex and Daniel Kim, Eui Jin Byun, Wataru Tajima, Kitagawa, and Abragan.

"It was a good training for our teams which are warming up for the spring youth league season. Our teams were a bit rusty since club practice hasn't resumed yet, but we will do so next week.

Our club referees too were able to get back into officiating after the long break since the fall league ended in November," MP United president Vickie Izuka said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"The weekend culminated with a BBQ party for MPU and Sidekicks players, coaches, managers, and families," she added.

QQ

From Page 28

and the win when Leo Galarse stole the ball from the backcourt after the inbound play. However, he wasted precious seconds before driving strong for the shot, which he eventually missed. Had the attempt went in, it would still not be counted, as the buzzer had already sounded with the ball still on Galarse's hands.

It was a heartbreaker for SSFM, as it led at the end of the first three quarters

and enjoyed a double-digit advantage early in the game. John Darag converted two triples right in the opening period and scored 8 markers, while Brennan, Galarse, and Erick Dela Rosa had at least two baskets apiece to lift SSFM to a 21-12 lead.

QQ fell behind after the first 10 minutes of play, as only Rodney Catalla and Ben Lisua made more than one field goal in the opening frame. Catalla played better in the second period, drilling two triples and nailing two more field goals,

while Luther Taylor came off the bench and logged QQ's last six points to close the gap at halftime, 39-41.

The match remained close in the second half with Brennan, Galarse, and Dela Rosa keeping up with Catalla, Lisua, and Taylor. Darag was out of the equation, as his shooting percentage went down in the last three quarters where he posted only 6 points and was scoreless in the fourth period.

Emir Abuan started QQ's scoring in the fourth with his three straight bas-

kets, while Edwin Camacho also delivered back-to-back buckets and Taylor also added 4 more markers before Sharry and Norita's free throws to put their team on top, going into the final two minutes of the match.

Taylor went on to top-score for QQ with his 16 markers, while Lisua and Catalla chipped in 15 and 12, respectively. Brennan paced the Jack Lizama-less SSFM with his 22 points, while Dela Rosa nailed 19.

Meanwhile, Division B of the DLX/

letes' second stop for the month, as they will also compete in XTERRA Philippines in Cebu City on March 3 and in XTERRA Guam on March 23.

Special hotel rates and homestays are available for off-island participants of XTERRA Saipan, which is supported by Marianas Visitors Authority, Coca Cola, Subway, IT &E, Docomo, DFS Galleria, Foremost, Delta Airlines, and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

For more information, contact Sakovich at swimsak@yahoo.com or Brad Ruzala at bradinthesand96950@yahoo.com or check the Saipan Sport-fest website at www.saipansports.com.

(Saipan Tribune)

Lin's 15 points topped the box score, while Andrew Johnson scrambled for 14 in defeat.

Varsity

Eucon 56 – Yu 30, T Li 11, Ren 6, Ja. Wang 4, Zhou 3, Je. Wang 2.

MCS 49 – Camacho 20, Evangelista 8, Jung 6, Quinn 5, Ogasawara 4, Taguchi 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-13, 26-15, 34-28, 56-49.

Junior Varsity

ACS 39 – Lin 15, Me Li 7, Yang 5, Puno 5, Dat Ti Tran 3, Dat Th Tran 2, Shi 2.

SIS 26 – Johnson 14, Cepeda 10, Kim 2, Ramsey 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 26-15, 31-22, 39-26.

Izuka also said the Sidekicks is looking forward for a return trip to Saipan to play in another series of exhibition games, while MP United is planning to compete in Guam again next year.

Meanwhile, MP United would like to thank IT&E, IP&E, Pacific Trading Co., and Gatorade for supporting the weekend matches. *(Saipan Tribune)*



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|-----|
| New York | 25 | 13 | .658 | — |
| Brooklyn | 24 | 16 | .600 | 2 |
| Boston | 20 | 20 | .500 | 6 |
| Philadelphia | 17 | 23 | .425 | 9 |
| Toronto | 15 | 26 | .366 | 11½ |

Southeast Division

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|----|
| Miami | 26 | 12 | .684 | — |
| Atlanta | 22 | 18 | .550 | 5 |
| Orlando | 14 | 26 | .350 | 13 |
| Charlotte | 10 | 30 | .250 | 17 |
| Washington | 8 | 30 | .211 | 18 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Indiana | 25 | 16 | .610 | — |
| Chicago | 23 | 16 | .590 | 1 |
| Milwaukee | 21 | 18 | .538 | 3 |
| Detroit | 15 | 25 | .375 | 9½ |
| Cleveland | 10 | 32 | .238 | 15½ |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| San Antonio | 32 | 11 | .744 | — |
| Memphis | 26 | 13 | .667 | 4 |
| Houston | 21 | 21 | .500 | 10½ |
| Dallas | 18 | 24 | .429 | 13½ |
| New Orleans | 13 | 27 | .325 | 17½ |

Northwest Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Oklahoma City | 32 | 9 | .780 | — |
| Denver | 25 | 18 | .581 | 8 |
| Utah | 22 | 19 | .537 | 10 |
| Portland | 20 | 20 | .500 | 11½ |
| Minnesota | 17 | 20 | .459 | 13 |

Pacific Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| L.A. Clippers | 32 | 9 | .780 | — |
| Golden State | 24 | 15 | .615 | 7 |
| L.A. Lakers | 17 | 23 | .425 | 14½ |
| Sacramento | 16 | 25 | .390 | 16 |
| Phoenix | 13 | 28 | .317 | 19 |

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

| | G | FG | FT | PTS | AVG |
|----------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Bryant, LAL | 39 | 404 | 262 | 1157 | 29.7 |
| Durant, OKC | 40 | 384 | 329 | 1172 | 29.3 |
| Anthony, NYK | 31 | 309 | 200 | 904 | 29.2 |
| James, MIA | 38 | 387 | 177 | 1001 | 26.3 |
| Harden, HOU | 41 | 319 | 342 | 1059 | 25.8 |
| Westbrook, OKC | 40 | 317 | 217 | 906 | 22.7 |
| Aldridge, POR | 38 | 314 | 154 | 782 | 20.6 |
| Curry, GOL | 37 | 263 | 116 | 757 | 20.5 |
| Wade, MIA | 34 | 257 | 156 | 684 | 20.1 |
| Lee, GOL | 38 | 313 | 125 | 751 | 19.8 |
| Parker, SAN | 41 | 320 | 146 | 806 | 19.7 |
| Holiday, PHL | 36 | 277 | 100 | 697 | 19.4 |
| Pierce, BOS | 39 | 253 | 170 | 751 | 19.3 |
| Ellis, MIL | 39 | 276 | 148 | 732 | 18.8 |
| Jennings, MIL | 39 | 261 | 127 | 724 | 18.6 |
| Lillard, POR | 40 | 258 | 123 | 731 | 18.3 |
| Mayo, DAL | 41 | 263 | 134 | 748 | 18.2 |
| Cousins, SAC | 36 | 237 | 167 | 642 | 17.8 |
| Griffin, LAC | 41 | 293 | 140 | 729 | 17.8 |
| Howard, LAL | 36 | 228 | 179 | 636 | 17.7 |

FG PERCENTAGE

| | FG | FGA | PCT |
|---------------|-----|-----|------|
| Chandler, NYK | 173 | 257 | .673 |
| Splitter, SAN | 161 | 270 | .596 |
| Jordan, LAC | 157 | 265 | .592 |
| Howard, LAL | 228 | 389 | .586 |
| Ibaka, OKC | 224 | 401 | .559 |
| Lopez, NOR | 193 | 349 | .553 |
| McGee, DEN | 173 | 313 | .553 |
| James, MIA | 387 | 703 | .550 |
| Bosh, MIA | 249 | 457 | .545 |
| Faried, DEN | 208 | 382 | .545 |

REBOUNDS

| | G | OFF | DEF | TOT | AVG |
|---------------|----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Howard, LAL | 36 | 133 | 323 | 456 | 12.7 |
| Randolph, MEM | 37 | 165 | 270 | 435 | 11.8 |
| Vucevic, ORL | 39 | 132 | 301 | 433 | 11.1 |
| Asik, HOU | 42 | 134 | 329 | 463 | 11.0 |
| Chandler, NYK | 38 | 171 | 247 | 418 | 11.0 |
| Hickson, POR | 39 | 151 | 278 | 429 | 11.0 |
| Lee, GOL | 38 | 107 | 302 | 409 | 10.8 |
| Noah, CHI | 38 | 142 | 262 | 404 | 10.6 |
| Cousins, SAC | 36 | 124 | 252 | 376 | 10.4 |
| Boozer, CHI | 39 | 95 | 299 | 394 | 10.1 |

ASSISTS

| | G | AST | AVG |
|----------------|----|-----|------|
| Rondo, BOS | 34 | 375 | 11.0 |
| Paul, LAC | 38 | 369 | 9.7 |
| Vasquez, NOR | 40 | 365 | 9.1 |
| Holiday, PHL | 36 | 323 | 9.0 |
| Westbrook, OKC | 40 | 331 | 8.3 |
| Williams, Bro | 39 | 299 | 7.7 |
| Calderon, TOR | 40 | 303 | 7.6 |
| Parker, SAN | 41 | 299 | 7.3 |
| Nelson, ORL | 30 | 217 | 7.2 |
| James, MIA | 38 | 265 | 7.0 |

Anchor Strong caging was scheduled to kick off last night with a pair of games. All matches this week will feature Division B teams, while action in Division A will resume next week.

QQ Car Rental 76 – Taylor 16, Lisua 15, Catalla 12, Camacho 8, Sharry 7, Norita 7, Abuan 6.

SSFM 75 – Brennan 22, Dela Rosa 19, Darag 14, Galarse 12, Ritual 7.

Scoring by quarters: 12-21, 39-41, 52-56, 76-75. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Mobil upsets Blue Haus, Proa routs KB Market

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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 REPORTER



There are no longer any undefeated squads left in QQ Car Rental's 3rd Basketball Cup edition as erstwhile undefeated Blue Haus was thunderstruck by back-to-back champions Mobil Smiles, 91-77, in last Friday's early tip at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In the late game, Lions Club/NMC Proa manhandled KB/ABCD II Market, 84-70.

Notably, the regular season was scheduled to wrap up last night with a single face-off between Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell and OCM Corp., which are both starving for at least one win before the postseason. A total of six teams represent the field.

Blue Haus' lone shortcoming in its fifth and final engagement locked them back in the standings with Proa (4-1), while Mobil finished the regular season all square with KB Market with 3-2 slate. KFC/Taco Bell and OCM both trail the pack with identical cards of 0-4.

Blue Haus rode on the back of center Bruce Berline, who bruised out 8 points in the opening period for an early 24-23 edge.

Mobil's offense in the first quarter came primarily from 8 points by Errol Peredo with an additional 6 apiece by Gyles Ruloked and Larry Sharry.

Peredo stayed on the court in the second quarter and teamed up with swingman Banjo Basila as the duo tallied 8 points each, but Blue Haus buried three from long-range shots in the period that kept the match at a 45-all



Lions Club/NMC Proa's Jack Lizama fires a jump shot over KB/ABCD II Market's Kelvin Fitial during Friday's 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup pairing at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

stalemate at midpoint.

Two of Blue Haus' bombs came from Brendon Talania who led the group through the first half with 14 points.

Mobil's Peredo answered Talania after the break and drained a pair of three-balls as the team gripped a 71-63 edge off output from six players in the third quarter. They also sank five shots from the stripe in the swing.

Behind three large possessions at crunch time, Blue Haus was unable to cast any magic to inspire another comeback win this time around as Mobil kicked it into overdrive down the homestretch.

Peredo started the final wave with 5 points and led all scorers in the end

with 29, while Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon managed 21 under duress.

In the second match, KB Market nailed four 3-pointers in the first quarter, but still trailed Proa, 20-17, as a handful of latter squad players chipped in on the bill. Perry Inos twice connected from behind the arc for 8 points in the first to head the group.

The contest remained close in the second quarter as Proa stood its ground and clung to a 39-36 favor at the pause by spreading the ball around to seven different players.

Proa then pined it sears back after halftime and trotted out to a healthy 63-51 lead in the third quarter thanks

largely to Josh Sablan's 8-point offering late in the period. He splashed in two treys before the third bell.

KB Market simply fell too far behind by the start of the final period and was unable to posture a comeback, while Mobil airmailed another trio of threes for good measure.

Proa's Dan Barcinas and Jack Lizama co-lead the group with 13 points apiece, while KB Market's Rolly Paraiso finished with a game-high total of 15.

First Game

Mobil 91 – Peredo 29, Basila 16, Ruloked 15, Sharry 13, Camacho 10, De Guzman 4, Gapor 4.

Blue Haus 77 – Esdrelon 21, Talania 18, Berline 12, Capalad 6, Galar-se 4, Guiab 4, Santos 4, Muleta 2, Tumaquip 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-24, 45-45, 71-63, 91-77.

Second Game

Proa 84 – Barcinas 13, Lizama 13, Pagarao 12, De Vero 10, Libuw 9, Inos 8, Sablan 8, Chariton 5, Yabut 4, Demapan 2.

KB Market 70 – Paraiso 15, Basa 13, De Dios 11, Acosta 9, Aquino 9, Fitial 9, Lizama 2, Norita 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 39-36, 63-51, 84-70.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bammy's Bar and Grill 8-ball Tournament winner Jerry Soriano is flanked by runners-up Chester Cuento, left, and Nolan Cultura during the awards ceremony of the weekly event.

Soriano soars to triumph in Bammy's 8-ball tourney

Jerry Soriano bested eight other cue artists to top last week's Bammy's Bar and Grill 8-Ball Tournament.

Soriano was undefeated in the double-elimination competition, clinching last week's victory after downing Chester Cuento in the finals. The first week (Jan. 13) champion started his bid in the tournament with a win over Joey Lucido in the upper half of the bracket. Soriano then advanced to the semis after thwarting Senen Pangilinan and the former made it all the way to the finals, following his first win over Cuento.

Cuento, who prevailed over Joseph Achas and Nolan Cultura in the lower half of the draw, was relegated

to the loser's bracket and had to beat the latter anew to arrange a rematch with Soriano.

Soriano went on to assert his might over Cuento and took home the \$45 top prize, while the latter settled for \$25. Cultura took home \$10 for placing third.

Bammy's 8-ball tournaments are held every Sunday at 2pm with an entry fee of only \$10. Entry fees are used for cash prizes with the winner taking home 50 percent of the pot, the runner-up getting 30 percent, and the third finisher earning 20 percent. Raffle prizes are also given every hour during the competition.

For more information, call 789-9008 or 989-7588. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Terry Guerrero claims CWGA's January Ace plum

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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 REPORTER

Terry Guerrero reigned supreme in the CNMI Women's Golf Association's January Ace of the Month tournament held last Jan. 12 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

Guerrero recorded a pair of 45s at Laolao west's front and back sides for an even gross tally of 90 that was shaved into a field-low net total of 70 that earned her bragging rights for this month, which was accomplished over a sizeable field of 17, as well as passage into the group's annual two-day season's end tournament coveted finale event, scheduled in April.

Four strokes back in second place came Kyung Ran Seo who scratched

in a pair 46s on the day for a raw 92 that was trimmed down to a 74 net total after the handicap adjustment.

The club's two-time reigning overall points leader Shiori Onoue rounded out the third position with a 42 on the front followed up with a 38 on the back nine for an impressive raw card of 80 that was factored into a 75 net total.

Other notables include a gross low card of 79 submitted by Yuko Togawa (40/39), which came out two strokes ahead of the two-time low gross champion Noriko Togawa (42/39), while fourth placer Grace Wang (40/42) finished with an impressive raw count of 82 for a 77 net sum; and fifth placer Sun Suk Kim (43/40) who submitted a gross card of 83 matching Wang's 77 net result.



Established in 2007, the CWGA is a non-profit organization founded to promote, encourage and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI. The CWGA utilizes a standard net score format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, in addition to a bid into the two-day Ace of Aces Championship, while 14 points goes to second and so on down through the Top 10 place finishers; the remaining participants each reach one point. Its season traditionally starts in May and ends in April.

For more information, contact Terry Guerrero at 285-8374, Bennet Seman at 483-0126, Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, or Delores Yamagishi at 483-3195.

Olopai in driver's seat heading into January Ace

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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 REPORTER

Tars Olopai grossed a 1-over-par 73 for a 64 net total to claim top qualifier honors as the Refaluwasch Golf Association Tournament kicked off the 2013 season opener last Jan. 12 at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Olopai penciled in a 39 on the front nine and finished strong on the back with a pair of birdies on holes 16 and 18 for a 34 and weaseled passed Ki Soo Kim after the handicap adjustments.

The couple was all square at the run, but Kim one-upped his rival on the back side for a field low gross score



of 72, which left him also with a 64 net result though Olopai received the nod based on their net totals from the first half of the round.

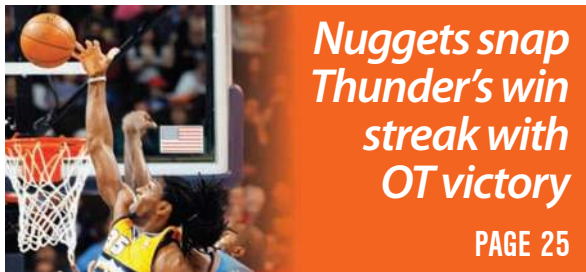
Notably, Kim sunk birdies in holes No. 5, 9, 10, 14, and 16 and also took two closest to the pin prizes in holes No. 3 and 12.

L.J. Camacho rounded out the third spot with a 78 raw tally that was trimmed down to a 68 net total. He started out with a 36 with birdies in holes No. 3 and 9 and pulled into the clubhouse with a 42, and managed another couple birds on holes 16 and 18.

The other eight competitors that missed the podium include Diwain Stephens (73), Tom Tebuteb (74), Harry Nakamura (76), Sam Kim (77), Manny Mangerero (78), Joe Saures (79), Jordan Kosam (79), and Rons Choi (79).

In related news, the group's 2013 class of officers consist of president Joe Saures, vice president Ki Soo Kim, secretary Jordan Kosam, treasurer Tony Rogolifoi, tournament director Diwain Stephens, media relations Tom Tebuteb, and membership chair Manny Mangerero.

For more information, contact club president Joe Saures at 483-5506, league secretary Jordan Kosam at 483-4506, or email cnmirga@gmail.com.



**Nuggets snap
Thunder's win
streak with
OT victory**

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Ravens upset
Patriots to reach
Super Bowl**

PAGE 24



28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Battle of champions in XTERRA Saipan

Australia's Ben Allen may be defending his men's title in the 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championships this March against two former winners of the XTERRA Tour's Crown Jewel.

The battle of the champions is anticipated in the March 9 competition after United Kingdom's Sam Gardner and France and Switzerland's Olivier Marceau have committed to return to the CNMI's biggest off-road triathlon event. Gardner won XTERRA Saipan for three straight years (2008 to 2011), but could not extend his reign in the annual tournament last year, as he decided to stay in UK and attend to his wife, who gave birth a few weeks before the island hosted the



XTERRA
SAIPAN



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Spectators watch Olivier Marceau go for his second lap in the 1.5-kilometer swim leg of the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championships at Micro Beach. Marceau, Sam Gardner, and Ben Allen are expected to return to Saipan in March to join the Crown Jewel anew.

**See BATTLE on
Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Eucon International School's Allen Yu gets clobbered under the basket by a pair of Mount Carmel School Knights during Friday's MISO boys varsity basketball match held at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

Blazers, JV Torchbearers light it up in HS caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



out wins
in last
Friday's
Mari-

Eucon International School's Blazers and Agape Christian School's junior division Torchbearers both grinded

anas Interscholastic Sports Organization 2013 boys high
See BLAZERS on Page 26

QQ snaps SSFM's run in DLX caging

QQ Car Rental handed SSFM its first loss in four games in Division A of the 2012 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after escaping with a 76-75 victory in their Friday clash at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Jerome Norita and Larry Sharry split their free throws to give QQ (3-2) enough cushion in the closing seconds of the match, while SSFM's failed to put up a shot in time, missing a chance to save its perfect record.

Norita and Sharry's one charity each put QQ on top by 4 points, 76-72, with less than 20 seconds left on the clock. A big triple from Don Brennan cut the lead to 1 and SSFM had a chance to grab the lead
See QQ on Page 26

Jerome Norita, seen here driving against Pacific Stars' Alex Lauron, plays for QQ Car Rental, which edged SSFM, 76-75, in last Friday's game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Guam Sidekicks duels MPU, CNMI training team

Guam's Sidekicks Soccer Club was on Saipan over the weekend and played three exhibition games at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

The visiting club brought its 11-player U12 team with Roy Abril coaching the squad and Gian Tenorio assisting him. The team was composed of Matias Calvo, Tyler Talai, Clayton Mitchell, Giancarlo Abril, Vince Cruz, Noah Bamba, Richard and Reuben Leyba, Christian Taitano, Marcus Schrader, and Joe Tisdale and had Len Calvo as manager.

Abril's strikers played two matches against MP United Football Club and had a split, while the visitors lost to the CNMI U14 National Team training pool.

The Sidekicks first played the Reena Patel-coached MP United U12 squad, which has Gillian Villagomez, Steven Martin, Joshua Abrogan, Juan Quitano, Matthew Ong, Madeleine Taisacan, Steven Goodwn, Mackie Custodio, Kentaro Kitagawa, Daniel Kim, Mack Yu, Isaiah Dela

Cruz, Clayton Izuka, and Alex Park as members. The visitors went on to blank the host team

last Saturday, 7-0. Reuben Leyba and Calvo made two goals apiece for the visiting team,

while Richard Leyba, Mitchell, and Cruz added one each.

Also last Saturday, the Sidekicks challenged players trying out for the CNMI U14 National Team that will compete in an Asian Football Confederation event this April and the latter

See GUAM on Page 26



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Players and coaches of MP United and Guam's Sidekicks Soccer Club pose for a group photo after their exhibition game last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.